



THE STAR'S WORLD CUP CONTEST BY FRANZ BECKENBAUER



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QUESTION 3 QUESTION 4

■ A feature of recent World Cups has been the emergence of the African nations. Although none has yet managed to reach the closing stages of the competition, the days have long gone when the so-called minnows were mere cannon-fodder for the traditional soccer powers. I can remember just how much trouble Morocco gave the West German team in 1970 in Mexico. In 1986, the Moroccans even reached the second round of the finals before losing to a late goal against West Germany. In 1982 in Spain, it was the Algerians who impressed and who were unfortunate to be eliminated following a controversial match between West Germany and Austria which led to both teams qualifying for the next round at Algeria's expense. There is one African nation which has actually never been defeated in the finals of a World Cup competition. Which is it?

□ How difficult it sometimes is to pick a World Cup winner, it's hard to believe. In 1982, Italy would have emerged triumphant after the miserable way the team played at the start of the competition when it failed to win its first three games. But then luck happened: suddenly the team moved up a gear and by the end of the tournament were world champions. In another World Cup series, both the eventual finalists even lost matches in the opening group round. You may remember the final for a minor opening group rounds. You may remember the final for a minor controversy just before kick-off when one of the teams protested about something being wrong with an opposing player. I want to know the finalists and the teams they lost to earlier in the tournament.

WHO WILL MAKE IT?

Austria

ERNST HAPPEL, the guru among Austria's football trainers but never the national team head coach, looks at the Austrian role in World Cup history philosophically. "The most important thing for Austrian football is taking part. This takes care of motivation and hopefully also for the necessary boost."

Happel is not alone in his appraisal of the sixth appearance by the Austrian national team in the World Cup. Former Austrian national standout Bruno Pezzey, who played for the teams which reached the second round of both the 1978 and 1982 World Cups, says the World Cup has a "function of setting an example for the next generation" of players.

Pezzey was there in two momentous matches against West Germany - the 3-2 victory over the Germans in the 1978 World



Josef Hickersberger:
Austrian coach

Cup in Cordoba, Argentina, and the "non-aggression pact" match in Gijon, Spain in 1982, which Germany won 1-0, a result which allowed both teams to reach the second round. Those Austrian teams consisted of "legionnaires" - Pezzey as well as Prohaska, Krankl, Jara, Weizl, and Schachner.

But the times are over when

Austria's national team had to rely on players who earn their money abroad. This year, Toni Polster, of FC Seville, is the only national player who does so. The 25-year-old Polster, though much criticized, is the star. He scored five of Austria's six goals during the qualification matches, including all five goals in the decisive 3-0 victory over East Germany on 15 November in Vienna which won the Austrian ticket to Italy.

Above all, coach Josef Hickersberger is counting on Polster's prowess. Hickersberger, 40, is the youngest Austrian national team trainer ever. Austria's airbrushed-looking World Cup qualification against East Germany and Turkey, Hickersberger (who played professionally in West Germany's Bundesliga) is happy with the round draw which puts the teams in the same group as the Czechs, Slovakia, and the United States.

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The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Amman, 19-25 April 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

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PALESTINE PEACE MARCH



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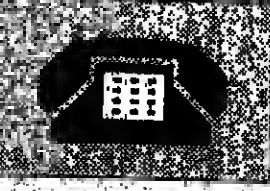
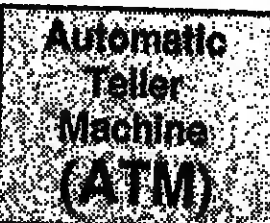


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The Star next week
Due to public holidays on the occasion
of Eid El Fitr, The Star will appear on
Wednesday 25 April.

INSIDE
Franz Beckenbauer chal-
lenges The Star readers in a
series of questions on the
World Cup championships
**The 1990
World Cup Contest**
Valuable prizes!
Details on the back page

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- 3-One original adidas Worldcup football jersey as officially worn by one of the national teams participating in the finals;
- 4-One original adidas football "Etrusco Unico," the official football of the Worldcup finals in Italy;
- 5-One accurate miniature, ratio of dimensions 1:10, of the legendary sports car Mercedes 300 SL, year of construction 1954;
- 6-One accurate miniature, ratio of dimensions 1:24, of the Mercedes car Simplex, year of construction 1902;
- 7-One accurate miniature, ratio of dimensions 1:18, of the Mercedes car SSK, year of construction 1928.

C O U P O N

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Jordan-PLO resume talks

King Hussein, Arafat stress need for continued co-ordination

AMMAN (Star)-Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday held talks with Palestinian President Mr Yasser Arafat who started an official visit to Jordan on Tuesday. Mr Badran and Mr Arafat discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian co-operation and issues of mutual concern.

Prime Minister Badran also gave an iftar Banquet in honour of President Arafat and the accompanying delegation.

Earlier on Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein and President Arafat held a closed meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court dur-

ing which they exchanged views on the progress of Jordanian-Palestinian joint action and discussed means of confronting the influx of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

The two leaders also discussed the need for convening an ex-



traordinary Arab summit to forge a unified Arab stand towards developments in the regional and international arenas.

The closed meeting was followed by another round of talks which was attended by senior Jordanian officials and the delegation ac-

companying Mr Arafat.

During the meeting King Hussein stressed the need for continued co-ordination and co-operation between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) saying that it was "our steadfastness that enabled us to survive the dangers."

King Hussein said that "our joint struggle that united us in the past will continue to unite us in the future and that dangers confronting us do not threaten the Palestinian land only but also the Arab depth."

King Hussein instructed the government to discuss all issues

of mutual concern with the PLO delegation and to co-ordinate efforts especially in the political and information fields in a way that would reflect positively on the national causes.

President Arafat said that the need for "us to stand by each other" is now more urgent than ever.

Mr Arafat warned that while Israel in the past aimed at Palestine only, it now aims at the whole of the Arab world. He said that the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine threatens the Arab world with new tragedy.

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

● Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Mr Suleiman Arar has said that members of the House have demanded that cases of financial and administrative corruption in the Kingdom be on the agenda of the extraordinary session of the House which is expected to start next month.

Asked if the House has dropped its demand to have the national charter pass through it without being put to vote by the people, Mr Arar said that "this is an old issue now" and leaving the charter approved by the House is no longer an issue for discussion.

● President of the Finance Committee at the House Dr Abdullah Er-sour has said that the committee has completed its work on the income tax law which is considered to be the most important law on the agenda of the House due to its impact on the economic situation in general and the investment environment in particular.

He told the Star that the committee took into consideration the real economic dimension of the law in relation to encouraging investment and solving the unemployment problem when it introduced its amendments to the law.

He also said that the committee took into account the fact that the public sector can play never solve the problem of unemployment alone and that the private sector can a substantial role in dealing with this problem.

● Some members of the House committee, which was formed to investigate the leakage of information about the House session on corruption, insisted in a meeting which they have recently held on taking the newspapers to court on charges of violating the Press and Publication Law.

19 APRIL 1990

Jordan gets down to the bare bones on meat supplies

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

WHILE JORDANIANS queue for meat the Ministry of Supply has been grappling with a troublesome meat tender that is costing a local merchant dear and again throws into question Jordan's approach to its meat supplies.

Attention has been focussed on a shipment of 30,000 Australian sheep which were rejected as over age and over weight but Jordan's meat supply problems predate the heavy Australians and are likely to continue for some time.

Problems began in late 1989 when political changes in Eastern Europe led Romania and Bulgaria to hold back more of their meat production for their own populations. After a period of erratic supplies the Ministry of Supply signed a contract with the Jordan Meat Trading Company (JMT) for 18,000 tonnes of chilled meat to be air freighted over a period of one year.

Deliveries were expected in around 10 plane loads per week, providing 400 tonnes of meat weekly with a boost to 13 plane loads weekly during Ramadan.

With Bulgaria providing 80 tonnes in two plane loads per week the balance was to come from Turkey, also one of Jordan's traditional meat suppliers.

When the supplying company was unable to meet its commitments from the Turkish market the Ministry of Supply waived its usual JD 10 per head charge on live sheep imports and arrangements were made for the Australian sheep. The sheep failed to meet Ministry specifications which required the animals to be no more than one year old and to be between eight and 16 kilograms, leaving a major shortage of meat in the market at a time of peak demand.

With one week of Ramadan and the Eid Al Fitr still ahead the Ministry of Supply had to move quickly to fill the gap. The JMT is now covering the costs of Ministry purchases of local

lambs which are being bought from growers at JD 3.100 per kilo, sold to the Ministry at JD 1.550, the price set in the contract for the Australian sheep. The Ministry is selling them on to butchers for JD 1.700 per kilo for sale to the public at JD 1.800.

At the same time other local meat importers have been engaged in a scramble to meet a new Ministry of Supply tender for 1000 tonnes of chilled meat which is needed to ensure adequate supplies between now and the end of the Ramadan feast. The importers are, however, finding themselves having to compete for Hungarian and other meat supplies with prosperous Western European countries which can afford to pay much higher prices.

Apart from allowing Jordanians a brief period of luxury when much favoured local baby lamb will be on sale at "bargain basement prices" the current situation has few benefits. And for Jordan Food Importers Association deputy chairman Muhammad Haj Deeb it is unlikely to improve while the Ministry of Supply maintains its dominant role in the supply and marketing of meat.

Deeb believes the only solution is for private sector importers to be allowed to bring in lambs and fresh chilled meat freely with the Ministry confining itself to controlling quality and price. He says fresh meat could be made available more cheaply if the JD 10 per head tax on imported live animals was abolished and he would also like to see government objections to the use of refrigerated trucks to bring chilled meat from Eastern Europe and Turkey.

The current slaughtering of Jordan's lambs is also a setback for programmes which aim to boost Jordan's own meat production by encouraging farmers to fatten their animals before sending them to the market. Jordanian consumers favour baby lamb and growers in need of money have often had no alternative but



A short period of luxury: Much favoured local baby lamb meat on sale at "bargain basement prices"

to sell their animals young although livestock specialists have pointed out that if they kept them longer they could earn more money for them and Jordan's domestic production would be expanded.

In recent years the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) has offered growers loans to enable them to fatten their animals. It has also completed a network of five sheep fattening stations which hope to buy lambs at 20-

25 kilograms and fatten them to 30-35 kilograms before sending them to the market. This would bring an extra seven to 10 kilos of meat per animal thus reducing the need for imports and saving foreign currency.

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The Tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department until, Wednesday 16th May 1990.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD (30) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time, Saturday 26th May 1990.

WASEF AZAR
MANAGING DIRECTOR

19 APRIL 1990

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THE STAR 3

كنا من المرحلي



Mr Nidal Sukhtian works out details of the march with a group of volunteers

Marching for peace

Event aims to draw world attention to plight of Palestinians

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - Between 30,000 and 50,000 people are expected to participate in the "Palestine Peace March" on 1 June to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. The four-day event, expected to draw peace activists, human rights advocates and representatives of non-governmental organisations from various countries will begin in Amman and end at the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan River.

The march, which is sponsored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), is one in a series of peaceful political activities undertaken by the organisation this year to draw attention to the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The peace march will re-affirm ADC's support for a two-state solution to the Palestinian problem and the right of Palestinians to statehood.

President of the Amman chapter of the ADC Mr Nidal Sukhtian, a prominent Jordanian businessman, is working round the clock to meet the 1 June deadline. He is joined by 120 volunteers at the march operations headquarters in Abdali. But he says he needs at least another 200 volunteers to serve on the 21 committees he created to organise the march. These committees cover health, security, communications, media and catering among others.

While the chapter is receiving donations, Mr Sukhtian says the march will cost between \$4 to 5 million. Most of the money will go to cover invitations and accommodation costs to tens of well-known international personalities from around the world. Press reports have hinted to the possibility of the participation of South African black nationalist leader Mr Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Mr Yasser Arafat. ADC has kept information on important participants secret until now.

"Our aim is not to tackle Arab political issues in the Arab World," says Mr Sukhtian. "This is a people's peace offensive." He says Arab-Americans want to organise a strong lobby for Arab causes in America and the rest of the world. "The target (of the peace march) is the foreign and not the local audience," he says.

The peace march logo was designed by Jordanian designer Mr Hayyan Ma'ani and was chosen by a nine-member committee from two design establishments, Yafi Design and IBCC Graphics. Letters of invitation have been sent to a number of international activists from around the world including anti-nuclear, peace, human rights activists in addition to churches, political and non-governmental organisations.

"This peace offensive will aim to prove that the Arab side shares the desire for peace with the international community," says Mr Sukhtian. He feels that the march will help "counter" Israeli attempts to distract world attention from the plight of the Palestinian people.

Mr Sukhtian thanked the Jordanian government for its assistance in providing a number of needed services such as security logistics, amenities and surveillance. The ADC does not hide its concern that some parties may work to disrupt the process.

At the same time, it is sure that the march will be a success and will draw world attention to it. Many European organisations have voiced their hopes that peace forces in Israel will organise their own peace march at the same time and march to the bridge. A number of Israeli peace activists including Latif Douri expressed their readiness to do so, according to press re-

transport the aged and the young.

The event will undoubtedly attract the attention of world media. Mr Sukhtian will hold a press conference next week to which representatives of the international media have been invited. "We feel the Arabs have been discriminated against both culturally and politically due to the influence of the Israeli lobby and media propaganda," he says. "We intend to upset this situation. Remember that we are working for a just cause."

The first day marchers will cover a distance of 19 kilometres. The march will begin at 11 am from the King Hussein Stadium at the Al Hussein Sports City and the first camping point will be at Naour town, where an optional camping site will be provided. On the second day marchers will resume their journey from Camp one arriving at Camp Two 17 kilometres away early in the evening. On the third day the marchers will cover a distance of 15 kilometres arriving in the evening at Al Shouneh Camp.

On the fourth day they will walk the remaining seven kilometres distance to King Hussein Bridge arriving at noon.

From there the marchers will request that they be permitted to cross to Jericho and then to Jerusalem. If not allowed, a press conference will be held on site marking the end of the peace march.

During the four-day march, lunch boxes, entertainment, bus and from camps will be provided to participants in addition to sleeping tents and health services.

Mr Sukhtian says that the Arabs and particularly Arab-Americans should capitalise on Israeli policies in the occupied territories. He refers to the recent assault by Israeli settlers on the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodorus I after the settlers occupied a Christian pilgrim's hospice in the immediate vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem's old city. "We want the whole world to know that the safety of Christians is being threatened by Israeli encroachment," says Sukhtian. He sent letters to President Bush and to the Holy See in Rome pointing to Israeli "intention and determination to Judaize the Holy City (of Jerusalem)."

The Amman chapter of ADC is currently considering holding a vigil in front of the American embassy in Amman to protest the recent Israeli attacks on Christians, and call on the US Congress to rescind its recent resolution on Jerusalem (adopted on 22 March) as being the undivided and eternal capital of Israel.

ADC has also protested peacefully when a US Senate delegation headed by Senator Robert Dole visited Jordan last week. Mr Sukhtian met Mr Dole and handed him a letter protesting the Senate resolution on Jerusalem and US policies on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the peace march, Mr Sukhtian called on international and local companies and organisations to extend material help to organise the march. "We need both human and financial support," Mr Sukhtian says.

He thanked a number of Jordanian businessmen and intellectuals for their support including Mr Foad Farraj, Mr Tawfik Kharar, Mr Elshamir Qadhim, Mr Nour Dajani, Mr Ismail Sabab and Dr Khaled Bataineh.

The village is built on government land, located between Suwaimah and Zarah, which is leased by the owners for a period of 20 years. Most European patients are sent by their countries' national health systems since

Dead Sea water is considered the best, and cheapest, natural treatment for skin diseases. Mr Nazzal says while at least 14 hotels are functioning on the Israeli (occupied) side of the Dead Sea, making use of one main health centre, Jordan is just discovering the enormous potential of the Dead Sea waters in attracting tourists who come for medicinal purposes. One night at the new hotel will cost \$90 per room or \$45 per person, including breakfast and dinner. Mr Nazzal expects a healthy 70 per cent rate of occupancy at the hotel all year round and he foresees a good return on the investment, of which the owning company has financed 70 per cent. Mr Nazzal hopes to open a four-kilometre dirt road connecting the Dead Sea Hotel to the Ma'in Spa Hotel thus marketing the two hotels as a unique Middle East centre for curing various kinds of skin diseases in addition to arthritis and rheumatism. This could boost the occupancy of the Ma'in Spa Hotel and generate a better income for both hotels.

The Ma'in Spa Hotel is run by one of the Nazzal family companies, Middle East Tourism Ser-

Orthodox Patriarchate to close its churches in protest against occupation of its hospice Karmash, 'America, Soviet Union are the heads of the snake'

By a Star Staff Writer

THE GREEK Orthodox Patriarchate Wednesday decided to close its churches in Jerusalem and hand their keys to the United Nations envoy in

protest against the failure of Israeli authorities to carry out an Israeli court decision to evacuate Israeli settlers from the church-owned building that they occupied on Wednesday 11 April.

According to Ekonomos Konstantine Karmash, Parish Priest of the Greek Orthodox community in Jordan, the Orthodox church in Jerusalem will refrain from all religious activities including the holding of masses in its churches until it retains its 60-room pilgrims hospice which is located in the vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre Church.

Ekonomos Karmash told the Star that the new development has prompted the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodorus I to postpone a visit that he was to make to Amman today, Thursday, in order to hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the occupation of the pilgrims hospice and consult with him on designing a comprehensive plan to counter the Israeli schemes to Judaize the holy city of Jerusalem.



Ekonomos Karmash, "we have no option but to resort to force"

Ekonomos Karmash said he will co-ordinate with the Islamic Conference Organisation on means of protesting the Israeli act and get a permission from the Jordanian authorities to organise public rallies and marches to show solidarity with Patriarch Diodorus who will stay in Jerusalem and lead the efforts to retain the hospice.

He said that Jordanian parliamentarians and Muslim figures have expressed complete support and willingness to help the church to retain its property in any way possible.

Ekonomos Karmash lashed at the United States for its biased policy towards the Middle East, and blamed the Soviet Union for allowing the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

Referring to the United States

as the "head of the snake," Ekonomos Karmash said it was the decision of the US congress to recognise Jerusalem as the undivided and eternal capital of Israel that encouraged the Israeli settlers to occupy the Orthodox patriarchate building.

"The United States turns a blind eye to the suffering of the Palestinian people while it carries the torch of human rights when the Israelis are concerned," he said.

Ekonomos Karmash said he had met with the American charge d'affaires in Amman and asked him to inform his administration of the dissatisfaction of the Orthodox Church with the American policy in the region.

Ekonomos Karmash also said that the Soviet Union should immediately stop the emigration of its Jewish citizens to the occupied territories because of the grave danger this process entails.

"At the beginning we were optimistic about perestroika but it now seems that the changes in the Soviet Union are channelled to serve the interests of Israel," he said.

The Orthodox Parish Priest said that "we should all go against the heads of the snake, the Soviet Union and the United States, and

threaten their interests in the region."

Ekonomos Karmash also said he was not comfortable with the position of the leaders of the Christian world because "international Zionism has corrupted them." He said the European governments cannot be called Christians.

Ekonomos Karmash warned that Israel is embarking on a plan to Judaize the holy city of Jerusalem and demolish its Muslim and Christian characters. He said that this is the time for Muslims and Christians in the Arab World to unite in the face of Israeli threats.

He called for the use of military power against "the killers the prophets" because "even Jesus Christ used the whip against them when he talked to them and they refused to listen, and we left with no option but to resort to force," he said.

Ekonomos Karmash proached the Arabs for their sponsors to Israeli policy saying that "it is incomprehensible that we beg for our rights and our fight for them."

He stressed the need for national unity among all Arabs as the only defence against threats to the nation.

JD 2.5 million Dead Sea hotel opens next week

Turn over of JD 500,000 expected during coming two years

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - A JD 2.5 million hotel will open next week offering for the first time in Jordan a combination of tourist and health related services based on the scenic and medicinal potential of the Dead Sea. Occupying an area of 42 dunams, the Salt Land Village will have a capacity of 100 rooms and will receive its first batch of occupants as soon as it opens.

The hotel, which is owned by Nabih Nazzal and Sons Co. and a local travel agent, has already reserved 50 per cent of its rooms to a West German company for the coming five years. Most visitors will benefit from the Dead Sea waters in treating a skin disease known as psoriasis, which is common in North European countries, according to the owning company manager and President of the Jordan Hotel Association (JHA) Mr Michele Nazzal. He says a turn over of JD 500,000 is expected during the coming two years.

The hotel is a village complex, designed by Jordanian architect Jaster Toukan, comprising a number of buildings including a 100-room lodge, one restaurant, gymnasium and health centre in addition to facilities for mud treatment. A skin doctor and a psychologist will also be available.

The village is built on government land, located between Suwaimah and Zarah, which is leased by the owners for a period of 20 years. Most European patients are sent by their countries' national health systems since

Dead Sea water is considered the best, and cheapest, natural treatment for skin diseases.

Mr Nazzal says while at least 14 hotels are functioning on the Israeli (occupied) side of the Dead Sea, making use of one main health centre, Jordan is just discovering the enormous potential of the Dead Sea waters in attracting tourists who come for medicinal purposes.

One night at the new hotel will cost \$90 per room or \$45 per person, including breakfast and dinner. Mr Nazzal expects a healthy 70 per cent rate of occupancy at the hotel all year round and he foresees a good return on the investment, of which the owning company has financed 70 per cent.

Mr Nazzal hopes to open a four-kilometre dirt road connecting the Dead Sea Hotel to the Ma'in Spa Hotel thus marketing the two hotels as a unique Middle East centre for curing various kinds of skin diseases in addition to arthritis and rheumatism. This could boost the occupancy of the Ma'in Spa Hotel and generate a better income for both hotels.

The Ma'in Spa Hotel is run by one of the Nazzal family companies, Middle East Tourism Ser-

vices and Management Co., which will also run the Salt Land Village. Mr Nazzal says that in 1989 the Ma'in Spa Hotel made JD 200,000 in gross operating profit. His company has a seven-year management contract which began in January 1989.



"Jordan is just discovering the enormous potential of the Dead Sea waters"

The company has launched a heavy promotional campaign in the Gulf countries where it has appointed agents. Mr Nazzal hopes to see the results of these campaigns this summer. But he calls for increased marketing efforts and a national debate on tourism in Jordan at all levels.

The Nazzal family has been involved in the hotel business for a number of decades. Their first "hotel" was a modest camp for tourists in Petra known as the Nazzal Camp. But the most famous hotel of the Nazzals was the Philadelphia Hotel in downtown Amman opposite the amphitheater, which was built in the 1950s until it was demolished four years ago as part of the rezoning of central Amman. Later on the Nazzals opened the Holiday Inn Amman, whose name was changed to Philadelphia. They also run the Aqaba Holiday Hotel.

Mr Nazzal is a great advocate of the tourism industry in Jordan. He calls for giving serious attention to this industry's great opportunities in luring thousands of tourists who come to marvel at Petra, swim in the warm waters of Aqaba in winter, benefit from the healing powers of Dead Sea waters or make pilgrimages to the Holy Land. He says that Jordan is one of three countries which are exploiting the Red Sea for the tourist industry, the other two countries being Egypt and Israel.

That is why he calls for building more hotels in Aqaba to accommodate the rising number of visitors. He also says that Royal Jordanian (RJ) must adjust to the fact that its markets will no longer be limited to transit services because of increasing foreign competition, but that RJ's attention should focus more on marketing Jordan.

Mr Nazzal calls for upgrading the level of services provided by local hotels. One way could be to refer the management of the Hotel Training College in Amman from the Ministry of Education to the Jordan Hotel Association in order to introduce better quality training programmes for Jordanian hotel catering students.

Still Mr Nazzal is not very optimistic about the future of tourism in Jordan since he has seen many attempts to create a national guiding council on tourism fail. With Aqaba's future tourist development facing bureaucratic and administrative problems, Petra's hotel expansion scheme reaching a deadlock and the private sector waging a lonely offensive to promote tourism, Mr Nazzal puts one question to those who are debating tourism and that is "What kind of tourism, if any, do we actually want...?"

'Al Nagham Al Arabi'

Drawing on a rich legacy of musical traditions

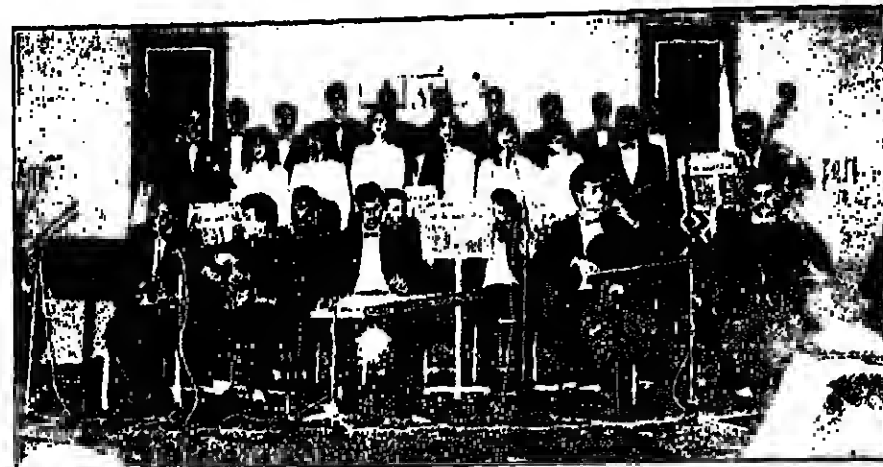
By Ceri Lloyd Jones
Special to The Star

THE SMALL rehearsal room of the Jordanian Musician's Association bulges with people, choir and band facing each other almost nose-to-nose, and Mustafa Shasha'a, the leader, sandwiched in the middle, conducting with his violin bow. "Al Nagham Al Arabi" - the singers and instrumentalists of the Jordanian Musician's Association - are busy preparing a programme of traditional Arabic music for forthcoming concerts.

"Al Nagham Al Arabi" draws on the rich legacy of Arabic music, incorporating the various classical instruments, forms and styles into its repertoire which includes folk songs (in dialect), ancient songs from Andalusia and Egypt (in Classical Arabic poetry) and some recent songs written in the traditional style. All the songs are preceded by an instrumental introduction, the instrumentalists all following exactly the same melodic line from a copy of the same page of music. Traditional Arabic music - unlike most Western music - does not have harmony (different notes sounding together).

After this prelude the choir joins in with the single melodic line, and as they warm up, the

"Al Nagham Al Arabi" at one of its concerts.



voices surge into a powerful wash of sound.

Expression is the name of the game: Arabic music appeals directly to the senses, the songs (mostly about love) playing on the listener's feelings of nostalgia. The fuses of the singers of "Al Nagham Al Arabi," show great emotion and each of the instrumentalists is free to add his own individual slurs and twiddles according to his fancy at the time.

The band includes both traditional and Western instruments. The Western-style violin, cello and double bass - tuned in the Arabic way - are by now standard members of Arabic bands, lending fullness and depth of tone to complement that of the

choir, lending fullness and depth of tone to complement that of the choir. Four traditional instruments are also represented in "Al Nagham Al Arabi" - the lute and qanoun (both plucked instruments), the "Nay" (reed flute) and the "tabla", or drum. Each of these is given a solo "spot" during the course of a concert, in which the player can show off not only his technique, but also his ability to create an improvisation.

Of these, the almond-shaped, bulging-bellied lute is the most well-known and most often played. The lute is now known worldwide, having been taken to Europe by wandering minstrels. In "Al Nagham Al Arabi" the principal lutenist is Sukkur Hattar, who also leads another well-known traditional music band in Jordan - "Fuheis".

The qanoun - a relation of the lute - is the trapezium shaped box-zither mentioned in "A Thousand and One Nights." "Al Nagham Al Arabi's" Ayman Teyssir lays the qanoun flat across his knees and uses two eagle feather plectra, attached to each index finger, to pluck the strings. The 78 or so strings present him with quite a challenge of tuning and when played, add a dry, silvery dimension to the overall sound of the band.

The nay - a breathy flute - is capable of greater expression. In the hands of Hassan Al Fakir - generally held to be the best nayist in Jordan - it produces the

most poignant of sounds.

Traceable to ancient Egyptian days, it is simply an open-ended segment of cane, which comes in several lengths. Hassan carries around with him a set of 12 to cater for the large number of different Arabic scales - some with quarter tones, some without.

The drummer is not usually a formally trained musician, and at the drum is always used for popular dance music, the expertise of the players tends to be under-rated. The drummer is an important member of an Arabic band because, where all the other players and singers are following the same line of music, the drummer is busy playing an entirely different part. He is the rhythmic section, establishing the beat, and playing intricate variations on that beat. He taps loud beats with the palm of his hand and softer paterings with his fingertips. Without reference to written music, he provides the irresistibly exciting rhythms.

In concerts of classical Arabic music, like those of "Al Nagham Al Arabi," the audience exercises restraint from the loud "creative clapping" (or even dancing in the aisles) enjoyed at most Arabic concerts, in respect perhaps for the seriousness and antiquity of most of the music they perform.

A slow start for alternative fuels

By Michele Bresson
Special to The Star

PARIS - The pundits are out again with new observations on switching away from crude oil but they seem to be more realistic in their assessments than before.

A new study published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) has confronted the issue head-on and come up with the conclusion that alternative technologies can cut fuel costs, but before they do so, they will require massive investments. Will these be forthcoming? The experts remain circumspect.

"Any substitution by alternative fuels of larger percentage of present demand would have to be spread over two more decades, and the investment required would have to be made almost entirely by industry," says the study, entitled "Substitute Fuels for Road Transport: A Technology Assessment." It added that there was no immediate justification for recommending large-scale production of alternative fuels. Instead, it said, a watching brief could be maintained across a whole spectrum of options available for switching from gasoline and diesel.

The quest for alternatives to oil, begun in the 1970s as a way of reducing the industrial countries' energy bill, has now been focused on the threat to global environment posed by the petroleum-based transport fuels. The study noted that "despite their potential benefits for energy security and environment, alternative transportation fuels are still surrounded by uncertainties as to their technical feasibility and cost."

Further difficulties exist in the matter of actual distribution and marketing of alternative fuels, the study said.

The study analysed technologies and markets for alcohol fuels, very heavy oil products and natural gas from 1987 to 2005. It observed that increased use of these alternative transport fuels could help to achieve energy security and environmental goals over the next 15 years or so by reducing oil consumption, but would entail major costs. The study said carefully targeted research, development and demonstration programmes will be necessary to ensure that each fuel becomes competitive.

The IEA study, prepared with input from outside experts, said that under assumptions of low natural gas prices, methanol and synthetic gasoline made from natural gas may be close to competitive with gasoline. However, methanol from coal or biomass and ethanol from biomass cost at least twice as much to produce gasoline at current oil prices and with current technology.

Research will also need to address risks associated with using these fuels. For example, methanol vapour is more poisonous than gasoline vapour and will require special storage tanks and nozzle distribution systems. For the longer term, research and development should be focused on engines designed to make full use of alcohol's clean burning properties.

Electric vehicles were not included in the study. As the batteries that power them provide less energy per unit of weight than other fuels, it was unlikely that they would come into widespread use within the timeframe of the study.

Charles - the architect prince

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON - The first television documentary written and presented by Prince Charles in 1988 voiced his anxieties over trends in architecture and attracted million of viewers. The consensus of public opinion after the programme was that the Prince of Wales, Britain's future king, was right to be concerned over the effect some contemporary architecture has had on the environment and people's lives.

Following up with his book, "A Vision of Britain", published by Doubleday, the prince revealed that his preoccupation with Britain's architectural "crises" was nothing new. For a long time he had felt strongly about what he saw as wanton destruction in the name of progress; about the sheer, undiluted ugliness and mediocrity of public and commercial buildings and housing estates, and the dreariness and heartlessness of a great deal of urban planning.

The debate which the book and his TV comment generated goes on. The influence that the prince has come to exercise - unofficially - on architectural trends in the country is best illustrated by the growing practice among architects and developers to send their drafts to his office for a - yet again unofficial - stamp of approval.

The impact being made by Charles on the shape of things to come in Britain, therefore, is not to be underestimated. It is an ideological synthesis, it seems, of years of study and observation of architectural practices of different cultures. And it is best presented in the book.

Alongside a diversity of architectural styles illustrated in the book are a few sketches by Charles himself. The simple text which accompanies the pictures contains a frank critique of architecture in Britain - and perhaps in modern societies at large.

"What is so badly needed is for the architect, and the developers who employ them, to be more sensitive to the deep-rooted feelings of 'ordinary' people and to find ways of integrating their opinions and their

needs into the creative processes from which new buildings emerge," says the prince. He asserts that above all we have suffered too long from the imposition of a kind of nondescript, mediocre synthetic, international style of architecture which is found everywhere - from Riyadh to Rangoon.

Among the architects the prince admits to admiring is the late Dr Hassan Fathy from Egypt. He describes how, for 40 years, Fathy had to put up with persistent vitriolic criticism and denigration by the modernist architectural establishment because he continued to espouse the cause of traditional Islamic architecture. He was dismissed as a romantic and out of touch with modern reality. Fathy, who died in November 1989, was to many architects a legend in his own lifetime.

In 1980 Fathy received the distinction of being the first person to receive a special Chairman's Award from the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) for a lifetime's achievements in areas relevant to the Award's objectives. The AKAA was initiated in 1977 and is a triennial prize of five awards of up to \$100,000 each to projects which "demonstrate architectural excellence at all levels."

It is not difficult to see why the Prince of Wales should endorse the ideas of Hassan Fathy, a man who, quite like Charles, carried on his crusade regardless of ridicule and criticism. Fathy sought to raise cultural consciousness among his people and to sensitize them to their heritage

Since he first voiced his concern over the chaotic state of postwar architecture in Britain in the early 1980s, Britain's future king, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, has built up a significant body of supporters for his ideas of reform. He has also attracted venom from modernist architects.



Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, as portrayed on his own book, *A Vision of Britain*.

of Islamic art and architecture. Charles has attempted a similar prodding of the people in Britain and he seems to be succeeding, albeit not without a vigorous defence by those who feel most vulnerable to his criticism.

Maxwell Hutchinson, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), in his counterblast to the royal campaign, entitled, "The Prince of Wales: Right or Wrong? An Architect Replies", published by Faber and Faber, claims that Prince Charles is living in the past and that his comments have been well aimed but misguided.

As just part of his vindication of architects, Hutchinson maintains, "when the Prince of Wales talks about the forces which have shaped, or distorted, the look of our country, the influence of town-planning legislation is conspicuous by its absence. Yet the power of planners is paramount: they administer the rules."

But the prince has a powerful argument, giving food for

thought when he says that he believes architecture has always been the outward expression of an inner inspiration, and adding "it is only too clear that it has become dangerously unbalanced and, unless it is examined in the light of a reappraisal of basic values and principles, we will all be the poorer."

Perhaps the most convincing case for Prince Charles is presented, quite unintentionally, by a book that has little if anything to do with British architecture. "Space For Freedom", written by Ismail Serageldin and published by Butterworth Architecture,

chronicles the first decade and achievements of the Aga Khan Architecture Award, with special regard to its third cycle (1984-86). This beautiful book is the third in the series Building in the Islamic World Today. Author/editor Serageldin is an architect and planner and was a member of the 1986 AKAA steering committee and chairman of the 1983 master jury.

The 1986 AKAA winners covered projects in Morocco, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Jerusalem, Niger and Pakistan. Honourable mentions were given to projects in Iran, Indonesia, Egypt and Turkey. They are well illustrated in "Space For Freedom", with objective, historical background, restoration work, technical assessment, project background, design and construction materials, technology and local architecture discussed where applicable. The result is an attractive book with wide appeal - not only to architects.

Ismail Serageldin says that a significant part of the award's

endeavours must be orientated towards promoting a greater appreciation of the cultural heritage of Muslim society, especially at a time when the ravages of a wanton modernism and the assaults of economic and environmental degradation are rapidly robbing Muslims of their best exemplars of past achievements.

He explains that the broad endeavour of the AKAA transcends the limits of what is conventionally thought of as an award for architecture. "Thus," he says, "the Aga Khan Award seeks to embrace buildings produced by non-architects, recognising that 90 per cent of the built environment of Muslims is in fact dependent upon non-architects."

It is in the broader perspectives of the book, however, that the ideas of Charles and those propounded or reflected by Serageldin seem to meet irrespective of cultural boundaries. The award's quest for examples of good architecture, Serageldin says, has been a counterpoint to the conventional vision of architecture. It has sought out examples which respond to a changing contemporary society and continue or reinterpret a vernacular architecture. Charles sees his brief as little different from that.

While the Islamic architects' search has been characterised, in the words of Serageldin, by "openness, lack of dogma and scrupulous attention to scholarship that create a space for freedom," Prince Charles appears to be steering the debate in Britain in that general direction. Will he succeed? The next few highrises to be built in Britain may tell.

"A Vision of Britain", HRH The Prince of Wales, Doubleday, pp160. Hardback £16.95.

"Space for Freedom: The Search for Architectural Excellence in Muslim Societies", Ismail Serageldin. Butterworth Architecture, pp 304. Hardback, £45.

"The Prince of Wales: Right or Wrong? An Architect Replies", Maxwell Hutchinson. Faber and Faber, pp 203. Hardback, £10.99.

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Juvenile delinquency

A threat to the social structure

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

AMMAN - Local statistics concerning juvenile delinquency indicate that Jordan suffers from an annual rate of 6,000 delinquency cases. But according to researches conducted by experts in this field, 68 per cent of the Jordanian youth (between seven to 18 years of age) has violated the law at least once which, if detected by the police, would have led to arrest. Individual assessments show this number to be among the highest in the world.

Dr Sari Nasir a sociologist at the University of Jordan, defines a juvenile delinquent as "any teenager who violates the law." Since the juvenile is not yet responsible for his or her actions and has violated the law, he or she is considered a juvenile delinquent and not a criminal.

Experts believe that poverty and the extended family structure in Jordan are among the main causes for juvenile delinquency.

Poverty stricken families living in the eastern part of Amman face the problem of overcrowding. The maximum dwelling quarters do not exceed two bedrooms for an average family of eight children. "This sort of atmosphere breeds violence," says Dr Sabri Rebeihat, a criminologist at the Public Security Department (PSD), in Amman. He says gang and clique formations commence at an early age in such family structures, and when such children grow up they begin to compete in committing delinquency acts.

Dr Nasir strongly rejects this

theory. He believes that in an extended family, children are under strict control and scrutiny. A child's many relatives make sure to correct any inappropriate behaviours.

Dr Rebeihat's conclusions are based on a self-reporting study. He took a sample of 453 children from government high-schools, others from juvenile halls, and some from schools which host drop-out children, potential delinquents. They were presented with a questionnaire including 106 items concerning past behaviour. Results indicated that there was no discrepancy between the inmates of juvenile halls and high-school students in their delinquency rate. Males were found to exceed females in juvenile delinquency acts.

Juvenile delinquency is also well-spread among the homeless street children. A street child such as a beggar or a run-away, is a child who is outside the local community institution. It is believed that street children, mostly run-aways are more prone to breaking the law. Dr Rebeihat believes that teenagers leave their homes in Jordan due to the broken family structures. For them, street life is an alternative to family life, he says. He says the age of such children is approximately 10.4 years while it is 16 years in the West. The difference is connected to the fact that children in the west leave home because they seek freedom. Here, says Rebeihat, children flee for search of identity; their family does not fulfil their needs and so they seek individual existence elsewhere. In the streets, they could be abused either by adults or each other. In

Street children: Potential juvenile delinquents



other words, children are being left to raise children. This phenomena, he says, presents a danger to Jordan's norms and values. For this pattern of behaviour could grow if left untreated.

Dr Rebeihat says that the nine rehabilitation centres which operate under the bureaucratic social defence institutions are incapable of carrying out their duties. He points out that they perceive their role as providing food and accommodation for these children and not to design programmes which respond to the children's psychological, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Dr Rebeihat says that Jordanian legislations on this issue are very advanced "but when it comes to applying them we resort to our personal" backward

ideology. We treat these children the same way we have been treated in our past. He asserts that Jordan is suffering from mal-adjustment to a transitional period. He says that some people perceive urban life in a tribalistic mentality and norms, especially those evolving around childhood, are confused.

Dr Nasir shares this view. One of the main causes of juvenile delinquency is the change occurring in the structure of society especially in the functions of the family. He is convinced that the break-down in family structure is directly related to juvenile delinquency. Examples on this sort of disintegration are loose family ties, separation, divorce and the like.

Both Nasir and Rebeihat agree that Jordan lack proper investi-

gation and research in this field. Dr Nasir attributes this fact to the various social problems appearing and increasing in the country.

Dr Rebeihat finds government action towards this issue inadequate. "Concerned officials take juveniles off the streets every now and then claiming that they classify them. But I don't believe they do that." He says that there is an urgent need for a youth mobilisation project to upgrade the conditions that these juveniles live in. Dr Nasir believes that initial work should start with the family itself. Work should also be done on studying the gang formations commonly seen in schools. He suggests that treatment start in schools whereby excess energy of children at early ages could be used positively.

The world's 2 billion underprivileged

By Fredj Stambouli
Special to The Star

TUNISIA - Still rooted in the economic and political system that arose during the last century, the world today is polarised between the exceptional opulence of the industrialised world and the grinding poverty and deprivation that is widespread in least developed countries. This phenomenon is aggravated by the fragility of Third World societies, the result of years of stagnation and subservience within the triumphant capitalist system.

Of the estimated five billion people in the world today, about two billion live precariously, fighting hunger and disease on a day to day basis. That number is twice what it was in 1950 but it will exceed six billion by the year 2000. Three quarters of the people will still be living in the developing world - where 90 per cent of the population increase is expected.

Certain groups in society - women and children, the elderly, the handicapped and the refugees - bear all the weight of this global poverty. Their living conditions are precarious, and they are socially and culturally alienated.

The global recession, the na-

More than two billion of the world's five billion people are surviving in precarious housing and health conditions which are now compounded by the deteriorating environment and the recurrent problem of hunger.

tional debt, and the urban explosion all have played their part in the onset of this extraordinary poverty. As the Brundtland Commission reported: "There are more hungry people in the world than there have ever been." These difficulties are compounded by a deteriorating environment.

The pressures created by these factors manifest themselves in many ways. A woman born poor in a developing country is 150 times more likely to die in pregnancy than a woman born in an industrialised country. Most of the 500,000 maternal deaths each year occur in developing countries.

The poverty, particularly the lack of ready cash, is exacerbated by the fact that women usually have trouble finding jobs and prostitution is widespread. The village traditions of solidarity and mutual assistance have so eroded as to deny women basic protection. Deep rooted sexual inequality is no help.

This plight of women reflects

inevitably on children. Although infant mortality has halved in 15 years, millions of children still grow up underfed and under-



The elderly, the handicapped and the refugees will bear all the weight of global poverty.

nourished. Not surprisingly, one child in three dies before reaching the age of five.

The statistics of the challenges posed by this rampant poverty and the solutions applied so far

are quite staggering. The global vaccination campaigns cover some 46 million children every year, but 2.8 million children still die of preventable diseases such as poliomyelitis, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis. A further three million children suffer the after-effects of those diseases for the rest of their lives.

The other important underprivileged group, of course, comprises the elderly. By the year 2025, there may be 1200 million old people in the world, 70 per cent of them in developing countries. Many of them will be living with their children or grand children in the shanty towns around big cities.

As Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the World Health Organisation, pointed out recently, the elderly have little chance of finding work in areas of mass employment such as the big cities, where 65 per cent of the world's population will be living by the year 2030. With the fragmentation of the family brought on by poor living conditions, the

situation of the old people is becoming quite tragic. The fate of the elderly is somewhat similar to that of the world's 500 million handicapped. By the year 2000 their numbers will double; four-fifths of them will be in the developing world.

Lastly, an estimated 13 to 14 million refugees constitute a massive presence in Asia, Africa and Central America. Their numbers are not likely to diminish unless economic and political conditions change radically. Of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, 75 per cent are women and children.

To improve the living conditions for these vulnerable groups ought to be the first priority for the global community. But a remedy will necessitate a change in our way of thinking; coordinated, multi-sectoral community development in each country, and radical reforms in the political and economic order to correct the North-South imbalance.

Dr Fredj Stambouli is professor of sociology at the University of Tunis, Tunisia, and a member of a steering committee of the WHO's global programme on AIDS.

ECONOMY

The Star

Market price indices: How accurate are they?

CBJ: 1.44% vs The Star: 22.8%

AMMAN (Star) - According to the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) Monthly Statistical Bulletin, the January 1990 Cost of Living Index rose to 150.6 points against 148.1 points in December 1989. This 1.7 per cent increase in the general index indicates that inflationary trends, experienced during the last quarter of last year, were carried forward into 1990.

If we were to compare January 1990 with January 1989 and 1988, we would observe an increase in the Cost of Living Index by 24.5 per cent and 46.2 per cent respectively. Although the general index in January 1989, compared with January 1988, rose only by 17.5 per cent, the 46.2 per cent increase in January 1990 over January 1988, indicates that inflationary trends during 1989 had an impact of 28.7 per cent on the increase in the cost of living during the same year. In simple terms, inflationary trends in 1989 added on to the increase in the cost of living another 4.2 per cent on top of the 24.5 per cent generated through the classical method of calculating the index movement.

The significant impact on inflationary trends in the year 1989 can also be observed in the year-average all-items-index. The index shows that the cost of living during 1989 increased by 25.8 per cent against a 7.5 per cent increase during 1988.

An analytical assessment of this impact reveals that the increase in the Cost of Living Index for 1989 was gradual.

For instance, starting with December 1988 and moving on a monthly basis, the index moved as follows: (Dec. 88-Dec. 89 in respective order) - 117.6 (Dec. 88); 121.0 (Jan. 89); 124.9 (Feb. 89); 125.8 (March 89); 130.4 (April 89); 128.1 (May 89); 130.0 (June 89); 133.6 (July 89); 138.4 (Aug. 89); 139.5 (Sept. 89); 141.4 (Oct. 89); 143.9 (Nov. 89); to 148.1 (Dec. 89).

The Star survey

Although the official figure on the cost of living index indicates that the cost of living has only increased by 1.7 per cent in January 1990, an absolute price survey conducted by The Star tells a different story. Below is a comparison between a CBJ's specific item index and The Star's absolute price increase (all compare January 1990 with December 1989):

- CLOTHING: CBJ index 2.3 per cent; Star survey + 15 per cent, from an average price of JD 17,000 to JD 19,500.

- FOOTWEAR: CBJ index + 0.8 per cent; Star survey + 13 per cent, from an average price of JD 5,300 to JD 6,000.

- MEDICAL CARE: CBJ index + 0.6 per cent; Star survey + 20 per cent, from JD 3,500 to JD 4,200 on average.

- PERSONAL CARE: CBJ index + 0.1 per cent; Star survey + 39 per cent, from JD 3,600 to JD 5,000 on average.

- FOOD ITEMS: CBJ index + 3.4 per cent; Star survey + 27 per cent, from an average price of JD 7,900 to JD 10,000. (The Star basket also included cereals, meat, fruits, meat, fruits, vegetables, dairy products and other food items).

The result of the above comparison, CBJ's index vs. Star survey, shows that the average increase in the above five items is 1.44 per cent according to the CBJ and 22.8 per cent according to The Star.

The Star analysis:
The cost of living
index
in action

It is worth noting that the above exercise was not intended to challenge the CBJ's index but to generate an actual money indicator directly payable by the consumer.

Excluding food items, the Ministry of Supply's pricing policy does not cover clothing, footwear, medical care and personal care. We cannot say that these four items are not strategic consumer items. Indeed they are.

However, as for food items

The Wholesale
Price Index in
action:WPI: 205.1 vs.
CLI: 133.8 in 1989

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) remains an aggregate expenditure index. However, in our case, it is not a representative of a finished goods index. This is due to the following reasons: 1- All stages of processing by producers of commodities also include input by importers of commodities; 2- The criteria, according to which price changes of goods that are completely

turn over or revolves. When the commodity leaves the wholesaler's warehouse it incurs added costs before it enters the retailer's showroom.

There is also a set of costs which are incurred by the purchaser in order to reach a final sell-buy contract with the retailer. The above costs are direct costs, "directly" borne by the purchaser. The word "consumer" comes into action when the purchaser consumes what he/she purchases and pays for all market costs.

The above analysis treats the Wholesale Price Index and the Cost of Living Index as two inseparable indicators. They should complement each other

and cover all the states of a finished commodity. For instance, when the analyst looks at the Cost of Living

Index (CLI) in 1989 (133.8 equal to an increase of 25.8 per cent over 1988) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in the same year (205.1 equal to an increase of 34.2 per cent over 1988) he should not be obliged to generate his own input to cover any missing links between the two indices. Unless the analyst adheres closely to the calculation methods and formulas exercised by the Department of Statistics, he will distort his own index.

We believe that accurate consumer market statistics are essential in all economic situations, whether good or bad. They, if accurate, would help the decision maker on the official side to pursue the necessary measures as they should fit.

If we were to re-calculate the Cost of Living Index and the Wholesale Price Index for 1989, using the same official methods and formulas and using a uniform set of direct consumer prices, we would come up with different indices each time. A different set of other "missing" consumer market factors is put into play. This indicates that there are missing links between the two indices. They are good indicators if separated, however, they should not be.

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● The Government has requested the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance studies on the feasibility of building a railway line between Amman and Baghdad through a grant of \$1 million grant.

● The Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) will offer long-term leases on land to be used for palm tree farming. Last year ARA experimental palm tree farms produced one ton of dates.

● An International company has proposed carrying out studies on the potential of Daba' and Qatrunchi areas in marble production. A reserve of 1.7 million metres is estimated at these areas, while Al Hassa's reserves of inferior kinds of marble are unlimited.

● Water and electricity rates will increase for subscribers who consume more than the minimums set for residential buildings, factories and various other projects. Present prices will apply on subscribers consuming less than the set minimum, The Star was told.

● Latest studies on animal wealth in the Ghor areas show that it totals 162,000 heads of which there are 116,000 heads of sheep, 40,000 heads of goat, 4,000 cows and 2000 camels.

● The Government has requested the Jordan Phosphate Mine Co. (JPMCO) to conduct studies on the possibility of using brackish water in phosphate concentration operations instead of sweet water. Brackish water is available abundantly in Al Jafr hasan.

● The Government has decided to exempt empty Iraqi containers at Aqaba port from fines estimated at JD 177,000. All empty Iraqi containers will be exempted from fines in the future.

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1 year	8.11/16	8.3/4	15.11/16	7.75	9.1/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):
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Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Rule of thumb

Contractor Pre-qualification (1)

IN ACCORDANCE with Article 4 of the Government Works Regulation No. 71 of 1986 and Article 17 of Government Tenders Instructions, instructions on pre-qualifying contractors and consultants were issued in July 1989. To pre-qualify local and foreign contractors:

- 1- Pre-qualification invitations are announced. Those interested are required to fill out certain forms and submit supporting documentation. The invitation announcement mentions all the details about the project.
- 2- Pre-qualification criteria include information on corporate organisation, administrative and technical divisions run by the applicant, financial capability, equipment, general experience and specific project-related expertise.
- 3- Pre-qualification is conducted on applicants according to their capabilities in implementing the project, but not necessarily according to the capabilities of those who are non-Jordanian contractors. Local contractors who fit a certain expertise are examined against their capabilities in performance.
- 4- Upon pre-qualifying consortiums, those which comprise a local graded consultant with a higher participation share are preferred. Each pit of the consortium is examined individually, then the consortium is pre-qualified in comparison to foreign contractors.

See next issue.

Matchmaking

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Made-in-Jordan

A Jordanian consulting firm diversifies

MEDDESIGN joined the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) as a local consulting firm offering its services internationally. Responding to the economic developments in Jordan, MedDesign revised its strategy and diversified its operations on three platforms:
- Architectural/engineering design
- Industrial/product design
- Marketing & management
The decision to internationalise led to the opening of

an office in Denmark under the name MedDesign Europe and took on as joint venture partners one of the leading industrial design firms in the world, Jacob Jensen, Derek Dennis Design, with 13 product designs exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.
With several projects in hand in Europe and the Middle East, MedDesign's main market remains in Jordan, with the objective to develop and grow in the country, and to compete with foreign firms in the local market.

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1 kg	8,600,000
21 ct	7,500
18 ct	6,500
Eng. pound	
8g	61,500
Rashad:	
7g	54,000
24ct (swiss)	9,500
Silver	
1 kg	160,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on in Jls
Sunday 8/4/1990

	Buy	Sell
US\$	669.0	673.0
£	1095.8	1102.4
DM	399.9	402.4
SFR	450.8	453.5
FRF	119.1	119.8
YEN	421.6	424.4
(100)		
DFL	355.3	357.4
SKR	110.1	110.8
LIT	54.4	54.7
(100)		
BLF	193.7	194.9
(10)		

Consumer Watch

Discount Sales

SELLING CONSUMER

goods at a discount or through clearance sale is basically selling well-known brands at cheaper prices, or selling regular brands at very cheap prices. Here in Jordan the phenomenon is somewhat observed differently. A Star observation revealed that at some shops announcing discount sales, prices were either equal or higher than they were in average sale periods. We cannot call this type of manipulative sale a discount sale. Moreover, a discount sale or clearance is announced between seasons where we usually have new brands and new stocks. Here in Jordan, the matter is not fully understood whether the sale is announced at the re-stocking period or the accounting period. In either cases, the discount is not seasonal.

The consumer should keep the names of shops, which announce sale or discounts, in a special record. He/she should be able to verify at each frequent visit to any of these shops any change in the brand or pricing pattern. The consumer should also develop his own information network if he/she is interested in learning about clearance or discount sale. A Star's survey last week showed that shops which announced clearance or discount sales sold at prices higher than normal at the following rates: clothes 17%, electrical appliances 21%, shoes 13%, and handicrafts 25%.

Vegetables & Fruits

Consumer prices on Monday
April 16, 1990:

	Fils/kg
Tomatoes	500
Squash	280
Potatoes	250
String Beans	720
Broad Beans	230
Green Peas	420
Cauliflower	240
Sweet Pepper	500
Carrots	180
Radish	150
Parsley	120
Lettuce	150
Eggplants	330
Cucumbers	300
Dry Onions:	
Local	180
Imported	280
Cabbage	90
Hot Pepper	900
Green Garlic	600
Green Onions	200
Mints	120
Coriander	120
Green Nuts	650
Grape Fruits	280
Oranges	450
Benanas	380
Lemons	320

Industrial Estates

Arab Steel Pipes Mfg. Co.

Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab
Invested Capital: JD 7.3 million
No. of Workers: 70 workers
Joint Venture: 82% Saudi Arabian (Al-Barakah Investment Co.)
Production starting date: 1985
Type of Production:
- Water metal pipes with a diameter of 1/2" - 6"
- Pipes for buildings
- Electrical pipes
- Gas pipes
- Pipes for metal furnitures.
Production rate comes to 30,000 tons annually and this covers the local market. The company is known for its high quality products which are manufactured according to Jordanian and foreign specifications
Tel: 7222890/722136
P.O. Box: (13)
Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab

Packing & Packaging Industries Co.

Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab
Invested Capital: JD 1.5 million
No. of Workers: 48 workers
Production starting date: Beginning of 1988
Type of Production:
- Printing on polypropylene, polyethylene, cellophane, aluminium and craft paper.
The company follows the latest scientific methods in printing and packaging, is working to export to Kuwait, Oman, Egypt and Syria.
Tel: 7222651/722713
P.O. Box: (154) Amman

Shows & Exhibitions

1990 Goodwill Games
International Trade Exhibition
Seattle, Washington
Scheduled between August 1 and 3, 1990
Contact: TRADEC, 910 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

International Marine Traders
Exhibit/Convert
Chicago, Illinois
Scheduled between September 27 and 30, 1990
Contact: NMMA Boat Shows
353 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10016, U.S.A.

Contracts and contacts

- Jordan Electricity Authority, 14/90, cable lugs and line clamps, 19/90, wood, JD 5 each, 23/4/1990.
- Royal Air Force, SJ/56/89/TF, coaxial cables, 21/4/1990.
- Natural Resources Authority, 14/89, casing pipes, JD 75; 14/89, well heads, JD 25; 17/90, rock bits, JD 50, 22/4/1990.
- University of Jordan, 6/90F, supplies for woodworks, iron works and aluminium works, 22/4/1990; 7/90F paints and supplies, 23/4/1990, JD 5.
- Arab Potash Co. SH. B.A.' - 24/89, construction of prefab. buildings (240 a.m.), JD 5, 24/4/1990.
- Civil Aviation Authority, T9/90, teleprinter spare parts, T10/90 sealant (B.S. 2499 British), JD 3, 24/4/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 22/90, four tons of polyester threads, 21/4/1990.
- Irbid District Electricity Co., 2/90, digging, extended until 26/4/1990 instead of 12/4/1990.
- University of Science and Technology, 2/90 MF, laboratory instruments and other nursing college supplies, JD 5, 28/4/1990.

- Ministry of Supply, 15/90, trucking contract (inside the Kingdom), JD 25, 21/4/1990.
- Jordan Electricity Authority, 19/90, wood, glue, metal supporters, etc., JD 5, 23/4/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 13/90, (Annex), 10,000 tons of sugar, 19/4/1990 instead of 17/4/1990.
- Royal Aviation Academy, photocopier an over-head projector, JD 5, 18/4/1990.
- General Supplies Dept., 50/90, lighting supplies, JD 5, 24/4/1990; 70/90, mobile water tanks, JD 2, 8/5/1990; 77/90, printing ribbons and cassettes (Olympia ES 100), JD 2, 24/4/1990; 87/90, computer supplies, screen, printers, control and modems, JD 5, 7/5/1990; 89/90, heating supplies, JD 2, 23/4/1990; photography and photolab supplies, JD 5, 24/4/1990; 84/90, truck spare parts (Mercedes), JD 2, 23/4/1990.
- Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, 17/90, five computer sets with operating pro-

grammes, JD 10, 25/4/1990.
- Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. 136/89, hoses, JD 3, 5/6/1990.
- Armed Forces/Directorate of Royal Medical Services, pads and bandages, JD 20, 22/5/1990.
- National Medical Institution, hazardous drugs, JD 20, 2/5/1990.
- Jordan Cement Factories Co., 8/90, conveyor belts, JD 10, 2/5/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 21/90, 3,000 tons of frozen poultry meat, JD 25, 3/5/1990.
- Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., 31/90, gas detection equipment, JD 5; 32/90, spare parts for refining unit, JD 5; 33/90; Industrial x-ray machine and non-destructive testing equipment, JD 10; 34/90; pipe joints, JD 5; 35/90 high voltage cables, JD 10, 13/5/1990.
- Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., 36/90, oil improvement agents, JD 5, 6/5/1990.
- Royal Jordanian, 53/90, de-

sign and construction of aircraft maintenance hangar, JD 100, 12/5/1990.
- Public Security Directorate, biological, chemical and fingerprint and photocopying materials, as well as glassware and laboratory instruments, 6/5/1990.
- Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., 37/90, metallic pipes and tubes, JD 5; 38/90, PVC plastic joints, JD 3; 39/90, loading seals, JD 5; 40/90, electrical cables, JD 5; 41/90 oil can lids, JD 5, 20/5/1990.
- Civil Consumer Corporation, 51/90, irons, 10/5/1990; 52/90, dishwashing sponges, 12/5/1990; 53/90, color T.V. sets, 15/5/1990; 54/90, glass cleaner, 16/5/1990; 55/90, nylon bags, 19/5/1990; 56/90, electrical dishwashing machines, 22/5/1990.
- General Supplies Dept., 75/90 and 92/90, Industrial schools workshop equipment and raw materials for these workshops, JD 15 each, both

14/5/1990; 82/90, vet. medicine, JD 10, 14/5/1990; 88/90, electrical cables, telephone cable extensions, cable joints and cable network supplies, JD 200, 29/5/1990; 93/90, electrical appliances (refrigerators, washing machines and T.V. sets), JD 5, 7/5/1990.
- Jordan Electricity Authority, 6/90, re-invention, black steel sheets and joints (from the local market), 2/5/1990.
- Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., BE/65/90, one heavy duty gas oven, one small gas oven, 2/5/1990.
- Arab Potash Company, 27/90, Uranus 4sN plates and welding electrode, JD 10, 14/5/1990; 28/90, universal lathe 2.5 metre long bed, JD 15, 12/5/1990; 29/90, electrical welding machine, JD 10, 16/5/1990; 30/90, 200 A.C. window type, JD 15, 19/5/1990.
- Ministry of Agriculture/Directorate of Projects/ Al-Hammam Basin Development Project, sand dam, JD 50, 23/4/1990.
- Universal Vegetable Oil Industry Co., Insurance, JD 10, 2/5/1990.

MidEast countries invested \$6.47 billion in US

FOREIGN COMPANIES had \$390.1 billion worth of investments in the United States during 1989, with Middle Eastern countries accounting for a mere 1.65 per cent of total foreign capital present in this country, according to figures recently released by the US Department of Commerce.
In 1989, Middle Eastern countries had \$6.47 billion directly invested in the United States. That marked a 36.4 per cent drop since 1988, when Middle Eastern countries were the source of \$8.83 billion in investments. From 1988-1989, the Middle Eastern share of the US investment pie decreased by 38.8 per cent. During 1988, countries in the Middle East could lay claim to 2.7 per cent of all foreign investments in the US. That year \$328.8 billion in foreign capital was invested in the US.

Last year, Israel had \$528 million invested in the US, while other nations in the region together accounted for the remaining \$59 billion located in US affiliates of Middle Eastern companies.
During the same period, Middle Eastern nations directed \$644 million in capital toward the United States. That represented an insignificant 1 per cent of the total \$61.2 billion in capital inflows penetrating the United States.

Meanwhile, US cumulative investment in the Middle East during 1989 stood at \$6.12 billion. That represents an 8.7 per cent decrease since 1988, when this country had \$6.72 billion invested in that part of the world. During 1989, US cumulative investment in the Middle East made up 1.6 per cent of total US investments in the Middle East, compared 2 per cent of total world investments.
Saudi Arabia was the Middle East's largest holder of US investments in 1989. The \$2 billion that were invested in the kingdom during 1989 represented 34.9 per cent of all US investments in the region. Israel stood

directly behind Saudi Arabia with \$797 million invested by American companies. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the Middle East's third largest market for US investments. During the period under review they reached \$1.6 billion in that country.

In terms of total outflows of US capital during 1989, American companies funnelled \$98 million to the Middle East. In 1988, \$129 million worth of outflows reached US parent companies from their affiliates in the Middle East.

More US capital outflow was directed at Egypt than any other country in the Middle East during 1989. US parent companies channeled \$52 million to their affiliates in the Arab world's most populous nation in 1989. That amounted to 53 per cent of total US capital flows to the Middle East in 1989.

Libya, an unlikely candidate for US investment, was on the receiving end of \$10 million in US capital outflows.

Israel and Saudi Arabia were the only two countries in the Middle East to have outflows of US capital. Israel, which registered an outflow of \$67 million in 1989, reversed a two-year inflow trend beginning in 1987. Saudi Arabia had a \$19 million outflow, giving the kingdom a second consecutive year of capital flowing back to US parent companies.

MidEast Report

Amman (Star)-According to a recent study published by Mid-East Report, foreign investments by Arab Gulf countries have increased from \$306 billion in 1983 to \$342 billion in 1988.

The increase took place during a time of decreasing oil revenues for the Gulf producing countries. Gulf investment has centred on the growing European market. Investments in Europe rose from \$85.9 billion in 1983 to \$118 billion in 1988.

Tenders in Saudi Arabia

- The Justice Ministry in Riyadh invites bids for Tender No. 7/1410H for repair of the Dawndim courts complex. Documents at SR 300. Deadline: 12 May, 1990.

- The Defence and Aviation Ministry invites bids for Tender No. 2/292 for connection of electric current to a housing compound in Kharij. Documents at SR 3,000. Deadline: 19 May, 1990.

- The Health Affairs Directorate in Riyadh area invites bids for Tender No. 162 for operation and maintenance of the Riyadh Central Hospital Laundry and washing and ironing of clothing and effects of the hospitals and health centres inside the city of Riyadh. Documents at SR 500. Deadline: 7 May, 1990.

- The Health Ministry invites bids for Tender No. 1358 for printing of medical records. Delivery within three months from authorisation. Documents at SR 3,000. Deadline: 12 May, 1990.

- The Education Ministry invites bids for Tender No. 6 for the supply of overhead projectors and educational aids for the year 1410/11. Documents at SR 100. Deadline: 8 May, 1990.

- The P.T.T. Ministry Undersecretariat for Operation and Maintenance in Riyadh invites bids for Tender No. 411015 for supply of inspection rooms and accessories. Documents at SR 3,000. Deadline: 21 May, 1990.

- The Education Ministry Undersecretariat for Projects invites bids for Tender No. 291-M-Sh/1410/411 for construction of 29 schools within the Seventh Lot in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam areas, and Tender No. 292-M-Sh-1410/411 for construction of 26 schools within the Eighth Lot in the areas of Abha, Najran, Bisha,

Jizan, Sabya, Makkah, Taif and Madinah. Documents at SR 1,000 per lot. Deadline: 7 and 14 May, 1990.

- The Presidency of Girls Education Undersecretariat for Colleges Affairs invites bids for Tender No. 6 for the supply of scientific apparatus and equipment. Documents at SR 400. Deadline: 12 May, 1990.

- The Civil Defence Directorate invites bids for Tender No. 62 for maintenance and operation of early warning whistles. Documents at SR 1,000. Deadline: 19 May, 1990.

- The General Organisation for Technical Education and Vocational Training invites bids for Tender No. 5 for construction of underground cable network at the Leith Vocational Training Centre. Documents at SR 300. Deadline: 14 May, 1990.

- The Health Affairs Directorate in Taif invites bids for Tender No. 1 for the supply of cooked meals for the Taif city and Mina area hospitals. Documents at SR 4,000. Deadline: 3 June, 1990.

- The Communications Ministry invites bids for the supply of motor cars of the Jeep and one-eighth types. Documents at SR 500. Deadline: 12 June, 1990.

Source: Saudi Economic Survey

Mailbox

Stunned

To the editor,

IN REVIEWING the final accounts for the year ended December 31, 1989, I as a shareholder of the Arab Centre for Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals, was stunned and startled to perceive the nonexistence of the Manufacturing Account and the Trading Account for the same period in the annual financial report distributed by mail to the shareholders.

A manufacturing concern is any business organisation that uses the four factors of production, namely labour, capital, land and entrepreneur to convert raw materials or semi-finished goods into finished products.

The paid executives of the firm to whom the shareholders have delegated the control of the business are under statutory obligation to reveal and not conceal the full accounting circle to the shareholders at the end of each and every accounting period. In this case, the starting point is the Manufacturing Account followed by the Trading and Profit and Loss Account. The purpose of all this is to provide management and the shareholders with the information necessary to run a profitable operation.

Another subject of equal and proportionate importance is the huge amount of JD 1,552,265 spent on sales promotion. This amount represents 39 per cent of the authorised capital of the company, and is illogical to comprehend by the ordinary man in the street.

Our aim is to cut expenses, improve production, increase output and double our margin of profits at least every other year in order to benefit the national economy and the investors.

George N. Saig
Amman

THE STAR 11

Our Say...

Common destiny

THE VISIT by Palestinian President Mr Yasser Arafat to Jordan this week has given a boost to bilateral co-ordination which aims at bringing together Arab efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. During the joint talks, His Majesty King Hussein has re-affirmed that joint struggle will always unite the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples in the face of their common enemy.

The recent developments in our region make the high-level co-ordination between the two leaders a priority. With the Palestinian Intifada going strong in its fourth year, the area is no longer in a state of de facto.

The two key players in any peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, namely Jordan and the PLO, have also developed their positions and managed to cope with new international climates. The Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Palestinian leadership in particular were quick to understand the global trends which will colour the spirit of the present decade. The PLO made genuine peace offers by recognising Israel's right to exist, while making no compromises on Palestinian national rights of self determination and statehood.

Jordan too has had time to adjust to the new world that is emerging. The return to democratic way of life was a highlight of regional events during 1989. The people of Jordan have proved that national unity is the most important asset which this country can give to Palestinians and indeed to all Arabs at a time when Jordan is becoming a target for further Israeli expansion which is being promoted under the so-called "Jordan is Palestine scheme."

The danger to stability in the area became even more visible as changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have given the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Jews to leave their birth place looking for false hopes in Israel. Since the Zionists have managed to close America's doors before these emigrants, the only other place where they were allowed to go was Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

The threat of Soviet Jews to peace is a one which must not be taken lightly. The fact that an Arab summit meeting has not yet taken place to address with this problem worries both Jordan and the Palestinian leadership. The Israeli conspiracy to destroy the gains of the Intifada, offset Palestinian peace overtures and threaten the whole Arab Order through destabilising Jordan, will depend on the thousands of new settlers who in the dreamy visions of Yitzhak Shamir will create "Eretz Israel."

The two leaders will also be looking ahead at other important developments where the Arab voice and the Arab point of view must be represented. The coming superpower summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev will have to focus on regional issue including the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arabs must formulate a strategy to present their views to the two leaders. But before this can happen the long-awaited Arab summit must be convened so that all Arabs share the responsibility shaping the coming stage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Handling fees

To the Editor:

I REFER to your article entitled "Foreign carriers demand reduction in handling fees" (The Star 5 April)

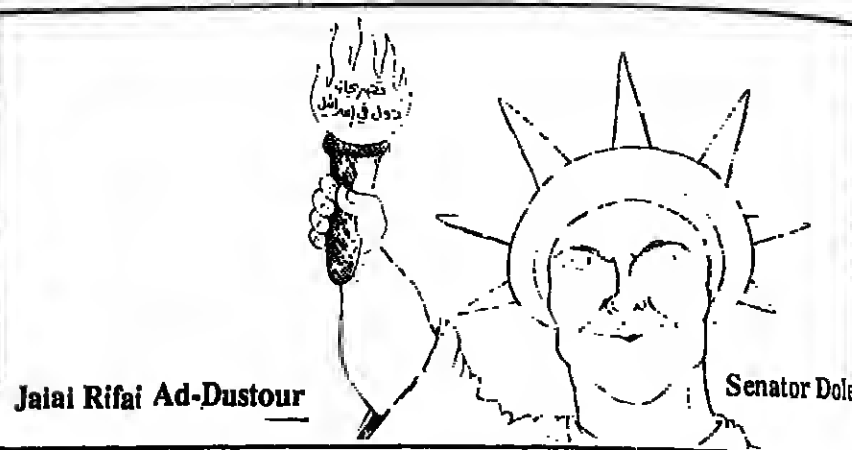
Lufthansa German Airlines fully supports opinions on the critical development regarding handling fees. These fees are charged by Royal Jordanian misusing the monopoly granted to them at Queen Alia International Airport.

We believe that it does not serve the interests of Jordan when international airlines continue to reduce the number of their flights into Amman or even stop their operation due to a short-sighted policy on fees. The airlines will change to more competitive destinations in the region offering more reasonable economical basis. The result in the long run would be a set-back both in the field of tourism to Jordan as well as in the traffic infrastructure Jordan needs to continue its central role in the Middle East.

Lufthansa German Airlines
Gero von Goetz,
Area Manager for Jordan.

The Star

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Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

Dole is not our hero

I DISAGREE with some Arab commentators who announced that US Senator Robert Dole has committed political suicide by criticising Israel and calling for cutting US aid to it by at least 5 per cent. I also don't think that Mr Dole will suffer political assassination attempts because of his remarks and statements. In addition, I don't think we should, as Arabs, declare Mr Dole a hero, only to denounce him few weeks or months later when he comes out in support of a certain Israeli action or policy that conflicts with Arab interests for one reason or another. The age of hero-worship and hero-making is long gone. What remains with us are global, bilateral, superpower, regional and unilateral state interests. This is the stuff politics is made of and this is exactly what Mr Dole and those who are for him and those who are against him all have in common; serving their country's interests.

Mr Dole's soothing remarks reflected a possible rift between Israel and the United States, probably even a crisis. Are the Americans fed up with Israel and its embarrassing policies especially in the occupied areas? Those thoughts and questions were put forward by a number of Arab thinkers, journalists and commentators. "A new talk by Washington," read a headline by an Arabic daily. This same paper had only few weeks ago declared that it had given up on America and the Americans altogether where Arab rights are concerned. Our relation with America has always been determined by how close or remote was Washington from Tel Aviv. In our emotional view of the world we have always assumed that because our "cause" is just, the United States should automatically side with us and reprimand "naughty" Israel for its belligerent policies in the otherwise peaceful Middle East.

Now comes Mr Dole to give us hope again; that America's heart could still be won and that its extremely hostile Congress has still few kind-hearted figures who will come forward to call a spade a spade. We tend to forget that Mr Dole is, first and foremost, an American official whose duty is to serve his country's interests, not ours. What makes him so unusual is not the fact that he dared criticise the sacred calf, namely Israel, but the fact that he has put a dividing line between America's interests and those of Israel's. Surely America does not want to have any part in beating up little Palestinian children and surely the American public will fail to understand the strategic importance that lies behind arming and aiding an Israeli army whose only mission for the last three years was not to check communist ad-

vance or protect the oil fields from falling into "terrorist" hands, but to crush the bones of Palestinians, demolish their homes and deport, torture, kill and destroy anyone who challenge their illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Dole, and behind him most of the American people, would feel embarrassed to associate themselves with a tyrant like Yitzhak Shamir and a retarded war game buff like Sharon. The Israeli political machine has failed to produce a statesman who would grab the opportunity of finally incorporating Israel in this region. But the force behind the loss of Israel's position as a favourite in America's heart and Mr Dole's harsh criticisms of Israel, is the Palestinian Intifada with its more than one thousand killed, mostly children and youth, and the more than 100,000 prisoners in concentration camps. The Intifada has helped plant a wedge in that seal of common interests between America and Israel.

What we should do is to help America understand that it is not in its interest anymore to back, unconditionally, an ally whose purpose and importance have simply been discounted because of recent changes in the world.

While Moscow is praised for pulling out of Hungary and Poland and looking the other way when its old-guard allies in Berlin, Bucharest, Warsaw and Prague were getting the boot, Washington is becoming the only country in the world which supports a regime that has no moral, ethical or religious harnesses whatsoever.

So while we should do something to help the "Doles" of America open their eyes to what is going on in this region, we should also learn to be less emotional in our dealing with the rest of the world. We should support the new democracies of Europe because a democratic government in Hungary, for example, should be able to play a more constructive role in East-West relations. It could also take firm stands against countries like Israel, which abuse human rights and violate international laws almost without exceptions.

The current trend inside Washington's Capitol Hill and the White House is unlikely to be reversed. But that does not mean that America will abandon Israel. What is probably taking place is a re-evaluation of Israel's status in the strategic interest chart of the United States. The cost of keeping an ally, currently at \$4 billion annually in official and unofficial aid, is simply too much for a superpower that is literally going broke.

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Opinion

Giving exporters a helping hand

By Riad al Khouri

IN MY column last month, I insisted that "Jordan's present economic problems cannot be solved without a comprehensive look at factors affecting exports". Today I'm going to come back to the same theme but in more detail. What quick and specific steps can be taken to help exporters in Jordan today? The government in particular has the power to help exports by introducing changes to rules and regulations. In the present atmosphere of democracy in the country, this shouldn't be too much to ask for.

In particular three areas can be identified where there may be problems in the regulatory framework for exports, and where quick action might be possible. These are:

1. Fiscal policy: income tax deductions
2. Procedures and paperwork for obtaining licenses, and
3. Approvals for agricultural exports.

I focus on these points because they are in fields where short-term change is possible and necessary. Other adjustments may be appropriate to the policy framework, but we are aiming at pragmatic changes in the short-run as a first step towards longer-term shift in trade and production. To this end, I would like to make some specific recommendations for changes, which can be implemented quickly.

1. Fiscal policy: Income tax deduction

In general, the income tax in Jordan is not seen as a major problem for exporters. The fiscal situation in the country today is such that the exemptions for exporters agreed in 1985 cannot be expanded beyond their present, modest range. Exemptions in other countries (e.g. India) can go as high as 100 per cent on income from exports. This may be envisaged later, but for the time being, exemptions must stay as they are. Income tax receipts are recovering and will go up substantially this year as this table shows:

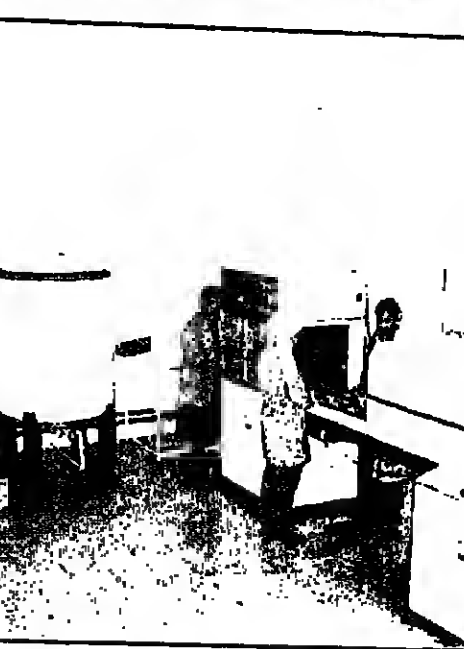
year	amount
1986	48 million J.D.
1987	45 million J.D.
1988	43 million J.D.
1989	55 million J.D.
1990	110 million J.D.

At a later stage, the Ministry of Finance can consider recommending to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This one-stop arrangement will not reduce revenue raised and may have a beneficial effect in various departments by releasing employees for more productive work. (The government in general and the Ministry of Trade and Industry in particular will have a lot on their hands in the fields of industrial and export promotion in the near future).

While present procedures may be no more than a nuisance for larger or established exporters, small firms or those about to begin exporting are often discouraged by the extent of government bureaucracy they encounter. And if the authorities see fit to abolish the export license procedure completely, so much the better. But let's at least streamline those procedures.

For export growth in Jordan over the short run could come from them. Besides, the well-established exporters have other things to worry about).

Income tax authorities can probably make a statement, asking their officials to show greater understanding of the current situation regarding exports and consequently treat deductions more in line with the exporters' position. Of course, such a statement is welcome but serious consideration should also be given to issuing formal directive in writing. This would ease the burden on exporters and allow them to claim legitimate deductions. It should be noted that while the income tax in Jordan is not a major problem for the big exporter, an atmosphere of mistrust can sometimes exist between firms in general and income tax departments. The latter treat the former as evaders, while businessmen complain that they are being overtaxed. To compensate for this companies may submit small income statements and inflated expenses. This causes countermoves by the tax authorities and leads to a vicious circle. This circle must be broken as part of a comprehensive process of bringing the public and private sectors together in harmonious relationship. In Jordan, small exporters in particular need to be assured and provided with a consistent policy. This is obviously part of a long-term task which will be difficult and complicated, but a start can be made in this particular area of the income tax and its policy of deductions for exporters.



These regulations are not appropriate for an economy oriented towards export. Foreign importers are particularly interested in regular supplies. A situation where a long-term contract has been signed and cannot be honoured by the exporter because of government restrictions will cause importers to stop dealing with Jordan (apart from causing legal problems). To avoid such difficulties, restrictions on selling Jordanian agricultural goods abroad should be abolished (except for the licensing of subsidised products). Some measures can be abolished quickly, while others may be relaxed later at an appropriate time.

2. Simplifying procedures for export licenses

Paperwork involved in obtaining an export license or related document is needlessly time-consuming. We can think of simplifying the procedure by instituting a "one-stop window" for exports at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This one-stop arrangement will not reduce revenue raised and may have a beneficial effect in various departments by releasing employees for more productive work. (The government in general and the Ministry of Trade and Industry in particular will have a lot on their hands in the fields of industrial and export promotion in the near future).

While present procedures may be no more than a nuisance for larger or established exporters, small firms or those about to begin exporting are often discouraged by the extent of government bureaucracy they encounter. And if the authorities see fit to abolish the export license procedure completely, so much the better. But let's at least streamline those procedures.



3. Exports of agricultural products

At the Ministry of Agriculture the following are requested of an exporter:

1. After applying for an export license at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the exporter should submit a request to the Ministry of Agriculture for a "recommendation letter" addressed to the Ministry of Trade and Industry stating that the agricultural products can be exported during a certain period.

2. The next step is for the exporter to take the recommendation letter of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in order to obtain an export license.

3. The exporter will then go back to the Ministry of Agriculture to obtain a "marketing permission", for which 100 fils in stamps are paid.

Jordan today is poised to become a major Middle East exporter of vegetables and other agricultural products.

These regulations are not appropriate for an economy oriented towards export. Foreign importers are particularly interested in regular supplies. A situation where a long-term contract has been signed and cannot be honoured by the exporter because of government restrictions will cause importers to stop dealing with Jordan (apart from causing legal problems). To avoid such difficulties, restrictions on selling Jordanian agricultural goods abroad should be abolished (except for the licensing of subsidised products). Some measures can be abolished quickly, while others may be relaxed later at an appropriate time.

The issue of food supply and demand in Jordan is currently sensitive. Obviously, over the longer term it will pay Jordan to export fruits, vegetables, etc. in larger quantities. But in the short-term, this may cause disruptions in the local market and even a certain amount of grumbling. Therefore, while decisive measures need to be taken quickly, the overall focus should be on the economy in the long-term. This may require a strong publicity campaign to explain the implications of such deregulation, particularly to lower income groups.

Later the government can go beyond easing restrictions and try to play a facilitative role in marketing exports. Meanwhile, in the current atmosphere of change, it may be possible to take these steps quickly and to ease the difficult task facing small industries and new exporters. Otherwise, we will be in even deeper trouble if the government doesn't redefine its role and start helping the private sector take the economic lead.

ViewPoint

by
Yacoub Jaber

A successful tour

THE TOUR by the delegation of the US Senate in the Middle East has produced remarkable results which exceeded expectations. The leader of the delegation, Republican minority leader Robert Dole, made stunning statements in Israel which could awaken the Israelis to the fact that they cannot depend forever on the United States for their survival and that their behaviour in the occupied Arab territories is beyond tolerance.

Most important of all is Dole's assertion that he will work toward rescinding the Senate's decision which named Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. The Senate's decision has infuriated Arabs and Muslims and led to wide-spread protests against the Congress's bias towards Israel.

Dole's delegation included members known for their staunch support of Israel. They nevertheless kept silent and let Dole speak out about the conflict in the Middle East. Dole's criticism of Israel has been unprecedented by any US visitor to the region at any time in the past. He indeed satisfied Arab demands and caused a deep disappointment in Israel.

The US Senator's tour proved to be fruitful and timely and provided an opportunity for an on-the-spot probe of the facts that govern the situation in the Middle East. It shows that once people are acquainted with these facts, they are willing to change their views and take an even-handed stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict.

People in the United States, including Congressmen, seem to be extremely influenced by the powerful propaganda of the Jewish lobby. They need to know the truth which has been obscured by the Zionists in Washington. This necessitates that the Arabs themselves should invite Congressmen to visit the area and see for themselves how Israel has been using US taxpayers' money to launch its aggressive practices against Palestinians and reject all peace bids.

The Arabs, after all, have a strong and just cause to argue about with their visitors. In the Arab capitals, which they visited, Dole and his team listened to a sensible briefing about the Arab flexible position versus the Israeli intransigence and inhuman behaviour. They were easily convinced that Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war and that the Arabs are sincere in their endeavours to reach peace. They go back to Washington with a fresh concept which they will convey to their colleagues and try to influence their administration for a quick action to resolve the conflict in the region.

THE STAR 13

Who are the soldiers crushing the Intifada?

By Mose Sattler

SINCE THE beginning of the Intifada, the names of Israeli soldiers and officers accused of giving orders to commit atrocities have from time to time appeared in the Israeli press. Almost all the family names of the soldiers indicate Oriental Jewish origin, while those of the officers are either of Ashkenazi or Hebrew (Ashkenazis who changed their names after immigrating into Israel) origin.

Who are the regular army soldiers performing their military service, and who are the reservists used to crush the Palestinian youth Intifada?

The draftees

It is easy to determine who are the soldiers performing their military service. As 18-year-old Israelis are drafted into the army for a period of three years, those serving in 1989 were born in 1965, 1966 and 1967.

Thus, about 27,000 Ashkenazi and 50,000 Oriental males were theoretically eligible to serve in the army in 1989. In fact, the number of recruits is lower, for various reasons. A certain number die before reaching the age of 18, while some do not serve for health or other reasons.

About 17 per cent of each year's batch of Jewish youths called for military service do not know how to read or write - either properly or at all; these youths are almost all Oriental Jews. In Israel's Jewish elementary schools, 54 per cent of all pupils are considered to be in need of "special education" classes; almost all of these youths are Oriental Jews. Although Oriental Jewish youngsters constitute two-thirds of all Jewish youths, only 10 per cent obtain a high-school diploma, which allows them to enter universities.

Thus, one in four Oriental youths who are called up has not even a minimum of education and is essentially illiterate; some, moreover, are unqualified to hold even the most menial jobs (cooks, truck drivers, service personnel) and are thus declared unfit for the army. Others have a criminal record.

About 15 per cent of male Israelis are not recruited into the army. Thanks to a discriminatory law, about 5 per cent (mostly Ashkenazi) of Israeli males are exempted from military service because they go to a Yeshiva (Jewish Orthodox theological academy). Another 10 per cent are Oriental Jews, rejected on account of illiteracy or a criminal record.

We may conclude from this data that in 1989, about 65,000 male Israeli sabras (Israeli-born) were drafted into Israel's regular, or sunding, army. Among them were 23,000 of Ashkenazi origin and 42,000 of Oriental origin. The Oriental Jews thus represented 65 per cent of the regular army contingent, almost twice the number of Ashkenazi Jews.

The reserve soldiers

Like many countries, Israel's regular army is complemented by a contingent of reserve soldiers; but unlike most other countries, in Israel the reserve army is an active one, as reserve soldiers - up until the age of 55 - are each year called to serve one

or two months. It is very difficult to ascertain the number of soldiers in the reserve army, but one fact is certain: The proportion of mobilised Oriental Jewish reservists is increasing from year to year, and that of Ashkenazis is dwindling.

At the end of 1987, Israel's Jewish population reached 3.6 million. The number of Jewish males between the ages of 20 and 55 was 780,000 - with 43 per cent (335,000) Ashkenazis, and 57 per cent (445,000) Oriental Jews. Yet the percentage of Oriental Jewish reservists is much higher than their percentage in the 20 to 55 age group, for the following reasons:

55,000 Yeshiva students enjoy the lifetime privilege of not serving in the army, and as we have said, the great majority of these Orthodox students are Ashkenazi.

About 100,000 Jewish residents of Israel (approximately half being males and a large majority of them fit for the army) are not Israeli citizens and are thus not obliged to serve in the army. Almost all are Ashkenazi Jews from the West. They are considered, statistically, as potential immigrants.

A large number of Israelis studying abroad, working in developing countries, or employed as key personnel in the administration, universities, industrial enterprise and so on, are exempt from a reserve military duty. No official figures are available, but they number in the tens of thousands. Their great majority are educated Ashkenazis.

Each year great numbers of young Jewish Israelis - some times more than 20,000 a year - leave Israel, mainly for the United States; this phenomenon began in earnest with the Yom Kippur war (1973) and increased significantly with the invasion of Lebanon (1982) and the Intifada (1988). The great majority of these Israeli emigrants are Ashkenazi - because only they possess the qualifications needed to be absorbed in Western countries. Oriental Jews, poorly educated, without a definite profession, and not knowing English, represent a small minority of those who emigrate abroad. Most of the emigrants are between 25-35 years old, in the prime of their life, in the prime of their child-bearing years.

The total number of Israeli emigrants since the establishment of the state is one of the best guarded secrets of the Israeli establishment. A high-level Jewish Agency official, Shmuel Lahis, was obliged to resign in the early 1980s for having dared to estimate the number of Israeli emigrants living in the United States at 40,000. Now Jewish sources in the US and Canada speak openly of one million.

Yet the number of emigrants is increasing, whether the Israeli media publicise it or not. Haaretz reported on 26 January, 1990, that the number of Israelis who travelled abroad reached 793,000 in 1988 and 869,000 in 1989. According to Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, 19,000 Israelis emigrated in 1988 and more than 20,000 were expected to leave in 1989. According to Gordon, the percentage of economically disadvantaged emigrants (Oriental Jews) has fallen during the last few years. Meanwhile this emigration reduced

considerably the number of Ashkenazi reservists.

At the beginning of the Intifada, many reservists, Ashkenazi and Oriental Jews, decided to refuse to serve in the occupied territories. Quite a few were sent to prison. After their incarceration, a large number of Ashkenazi reservists decided to emigrate. The phenomenon was taking on large proportions. The military



About 15 per cent of Israeli males are not recruited into the army. Thanks to a discriminatory law, about 5 per cent (mostly Ashkenazi) of Israeli males are exempted from military service because they go to a Yeshiva. Another 10 per cent are Oriental Jews, rejected on account of illiteracy or a criminal record.

establishment decided to turn a blind eye toward most Ashkenazi reservists who refused to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; "arrangements" were made for them. But harsh measures are taken against Ashkenazi kibbutzniks and Oriental Jewish refusniks, whose example could become contagious and who cannot so easily emigrate. Some Orientals have been sent to military prison four times within the space of one year for refusing to take part in crushing the Intifada.

It is clear from this analysis that because a large number of Ashkenazi males in the prime of their life manage to exempt themselves from service - Yeshiva seminary students, non-citizen residents, those working abroad, or in sensitive jobs, emigrants to the West - the proportion of Oriental Jews in the reserves grows from year to year. According to Zeev Yafet in Haaretz of 13 March, about 10,000 reservists needed in key posts in Israel are not called for reserve duty; almost all are Ashkenazi.

Among those Ashkenazi who do get called up into the reserves, many are given technical jobs, leaving only a small proportion of Ashkenazis to crush the Intifada; and even then, arrangements are generally made for those who refuse this job.

The IDF's Ashkenazi-Oriental division of labour

It is a well known fact that Oriental Jews from the bulk of the non-commissioned soldiers and Ashkenazi Jews largely constitute the class of officers, from captain and up. The IDF does not trust its Oriental Jews. What the IDF high command thinks of Oriental Jewish soldiers is best illustrated by the declaration of one of its army

chiefs of staff (1974-78), Mordechai Gorer.

"I think that the members of Oriental communities will not reduce the social gap before 20 or 30 years. All the efforts that the people of Israel (the Ashkenazis?) shall deploy in these communities will only furnish partial results. Only a few of them could occupy command posts."

prison wardens are of Oriental origin.

Indoctrination of Oriental Jewish children

Two principles are fundamental in creating obedient soldiers: a low level of education and educational indoctrination. Uri Lebrani, former Israeli ambassador to Iran and co-ordinator of all Israeli activities in Lebanon, said of the Palestinians: "The lower their educational level, the easier the task of leading them will be for us". Such is the approach taken vis-a-vis Oriental Jewish youths, who are intended to form the bulk of Israeli army soldiers.

That the great majority of Oriental Jews are segregated in "development towns" or in the far-out suburbs of the big cities - the slum quarters of Haifa (Tel Aviv) or Musassa (Jerusalem) - has rendered the task easier. It is not by chance that, 40 years after the establishment of the state, nearly all Oriental Jews are considered in need of "special education" classes? That a quarter of all Oriental Jewish youths marked out to serve in the army are functionally illiterate?

The brain-washing of Oriental Jewish children against Arabs begins in their most tender years. From nursery school through high school, these youngsters are conditioned in such a way that, as soldiers, they will execute orders any civilized person would shun - break bones, bury alive, beat to death, etc. Not only do they carry out these orders, but some indeed take pleasure in it. In many cases, because of the boredom of military life, the soldiers invent methods of humiliating and tormenting local Palestinians. Such conduct is in part the result of the education these Israelis have received in school.

The willingness of Oriental Jewish youths to join the army is due to the fact that an Israeli with an inferior education - or none at all - and a negative army discharge has little chance of finding a stable job, whether in the state industries, which form a third of Israel's enterprises, or the Histadrut enterprise, which form another third, in any of the governmental and municipal administrations, or in private firms. Along with a curriculum vitae, job applicants in Israel must present their army record.

In fact, the Oriental Jewish youths conscripted into the army are drawn into a mesh out of which they cannot easily escape. Since their most tender years they have been taught to hate Palestinians and other Arabs, as not to resist when they are ordered to act as barbarians. When officers order soldiers to beat the bones of unarmed Palestinians, to bury alive Arab youths, to kill children (throwing stones), these orders are carried out most, without remorse.

The tragedy is that up to now most Oriental Jews are unaware of the main role assigned to them, when they were brought to Israel, by the Ashkenazi establishment: To help enlarge the frontiers of the new state and to maintain "law and order" only among the native Palestinians but also among the Oriental Jews themselves.

After the army, many of these Oriental soldiers, bereft of proper schooling and professional training, join the police and

Insight
By
Dr Nabil Al-Sharif

Zionism: Racist as ever!

In January 10, 1975, The UN General Assembly passed its famous and daring resolution equating Zionism with racism. The network of the world Zionist lobby has been busy ever since trying to cancel this resolution, restore Zionism's lost image and cover up its true identity behind another UN resolution.

It now seems that the attempts of the Zionist lobby are on the verge of success. The Zionists seemed to have convinced the current US administration to adopt the campaign of cancelling the 1975 General Assembly resolution in the "service of peace," and to offer Zionist leaders the confidence needed to join the peace process.

The American administration should know better than to confuse matters like that. It is enough that the American side is granting Israel everything-including the right to usurp Arab cities - in the hope of winning the Israeli side to the peace process. The whole thing is turning into an exercise in absurdity to the extent that when the peace march actually starts there will probably be nothing left about which we can negotiate, because the Americans will have given the Israelis everything in the "courting" stage.

The most dangerous aspect in the current US move to cancel the 1975 UN resolution is that it comes in the wake of the gigantic democratic changes that have swept across various nations of the world. The US seems to be suggesting that the 1975 resolution belongs to the totalitarian era that has ended in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The greatest irony is that the US is now calling on the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe to sponsor the call for cancelling the 1975 UN resolution.

Zionism has not changed as a racist ideology between 1975 and 1990. The only thing that has changed is the collapse of some regimes and schools of government, and the emergence of a new world. But Zionism remains as racist as ever. Israel is probably the only state in the world that gives all Jews, for the mere sake of being Jews, the right to "return" to Israel, replacing the "non-Jewish" native inhabitants. The Soviet Jewish emigration is a new proof of the racist mentality of Zionist leaders. The world should, in fact, renew its condemnation of Zionism rather than grant it safe passage in the world of innocence.

US SENATE Minority Leader Robert Dole (Republican-Kansas) who this week visited several Middle Eastern countries including Jordan and Israel, has articulated his views on US foreign aid to Israel in relation to current developments in Eastern Europe.

Following is a transcript of an interview which touches on the aid to Israel.

Q: Can you explain how you see things in the world? What happened lately?

A: What happened lately is that we had a lot of emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, plus we had many responsibilities in Latin America - and we don't have any money. We're broke. We've got a three-trillion-dollar debt in America. We're paying \$170 billion a year interest in America and the people are looking around: how did we help Czechoslovakia, how did we help Bulgaria, how did we help Poland?

Well, one way is to go back and look at our aid program which had grown rapidly in the past few years and shave a little off for some of the countries that get big big chunks. In fact, as far as I'm concerned, take some from every country regardless of how much they get - whether it's a billion or million.

Q: Many politicians, when they cause a scandal, say "we were misunderstood." What really was the thing that you wanted to express?

A: What I wanted to express was that - the president of the United States - our constitution provides that he determines the foreign policy; he is the foreign policy chief. But in the Congress, what we've done so people will understand, we've taken all the foreign aid money and we've said: so much goes to this country and so much goes to that country so that 82 per cent of what we call economic aid is already what we call earmarked - is already taken.

And 92 per cent of military aid (grants in the case of Israel) is reserved. So the president has no flexibility.

So why should the president of the United States, regardless of his party, have his hands tied so that he can't move to meet some of the demands of the emerging countries?

Q: When you made that proposal or declaration, were you aware of the noise that it would cause inside Israel and the Jewish community?

A: I've been in politics long; nobody wants to give up anything. Whether it's Israel, Egypt or Mr Jones out in Kansas. The Israelis are friends and we ought to talk about things that need to be done. In fact, I think the Israelis missed a good opportunity not saying that's a good idea. We'll take a little less to help some of these democracies. After all, it's in their interest; there are many Jewish people living in these countries. Why not give them a little bit of money.

Q: Did you consult with some Jewish leaders or Jewish friends before you declared it?

A: Oh, no. I have a lot of Jewish friends; and I know all the Jewish leaders. I've been a

Senator Robert Dole

Jewish leaders are too selfish



Senator Dole: "...the attitudes in America are changing. We all watch television. We see little Arab children being shot by Israeli soldiers. And we don't know why it happens. The Israelis are provoked. With rocks-versus-bullets? It's hard to explain that to people."

cision every night. And what people see every night on television - people being shot at, or reported deaths, or as noted in recent papers deporting people from Israel, separating families - you know, American people don't like that. They tend to think "What's going on? Here's small country, we give them four billion dollars a year or more, and what about human rights? What about abuses?"

So, I would hope that we'd had a settlement of the Mideast; that's what we need. To get the talks started, and not make it too difficult. But yes, I think there's a change in attitude towards Israel.

Q: A last line, a bottom line about this issue. Do you consider yourself as an Israel supporter?

A: Oh, I think so. I think my record is almost 100 per cent. In addition when I was chairman of the Senate finance committee we passed the Israel-US free trade agreement. The genocide convention was in the Senate for 30-some years until I became the (majority) leader of the Senate and I got it passed. So there's no doubt about it; and I've been to Israel and I've spoken to groups in Israel and I've met with Mr Begin and Peres and all leaders in Israel. So, yes, I think I'm a strong ally.

So why not go back and take a look at the aid programme? Why is that we give Israel \$1.2 billion in advance every year? No other country in the world gets theirs in advance. That way they get to make \$17 million a year in interest. We lose that much we could make on interest payments. I mean why all these preferences for Israel. They are unique, they're our friends but it seems to me that if we take a look at everything we've done for Israel, those objective Israelis and the Jewish community in the United States will say "No may be this is too much. Maybe we shouldn't expect so much."

Jerusalem Post

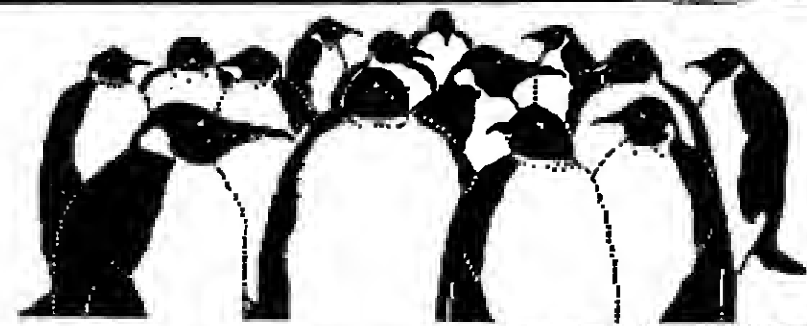
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Around Town

Queen Noor inspects Al Raiyah Garment Industry Project in Mafrag

Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Mafrag Wednesday where she was briefed on the progress of Al Raiyah Garment Industry Project since its inclusion early in 1989 in the list of projects implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The project was established in 1985 as a result of co-operation between the Ministry of Social Development and Catholic Relief Services, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project aims at increasing women's income in Mafrag.

On 8 November 1988, the cabinet approved the transfer of the project to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. An agreement to that effect was signed on 24 December 1988 between the Ministry of Social Development and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women and Development Program. The Foundation took delivery of the factory on 28 February 1989.

The overall objective of the scheme aims at integrating women into the socio-economic development of the country and at boosting the benefits they draw from the process.

In particular, the scheme seeks to identify potential female leaders and administrative cadres and train them in the management of viable, productive enterprises; transform social work in Jordan from a charitable to a vi-



able business-oriented endeavor; provide the local market with high-quality saleable products that would take the place of imports; train low-income rural women in Mafrag in activities that generate additional income to improve their socio-economic conditions; provide these women with educational information on health, nutrition, family care and home economics; and demonstrate the fruitful effectiveness of co-operation among local, national and international organizations in implementing productive schemes.

The project consists of a factory for ready-to-wear garments in Mafrag that also provides training opportunities for low-income rural women in all aspects of the clothes industry.

The Raiyah Project currently employs 21 female workers, one manager, two technical supervisors, and one industrial cutter. Part-time workers can be called

upon when demand on production increases.

Training courses in industrial sewing are held regularly in co-operation with the Vocational Training Corp. Expenses for the 192-hour training courses are covered by the fees paid by the trainees and/or their sponsors.

Since the establishment of the project in 1985, a total of 150 female workers have been trained at the factory.

The Raiyah factory produces good-quality garments at reasonable prices, enabling it to compete favourably in the local market.

During the period from March to December 1989, the factory produced 47,000 articles worth more than JD 74,000. These included children's apparel, work-ers' overalls and other professional garments.

The Raiyah Project's clients include Military Consumer Services Society, the Civil Servants Consumers Society, the University of Jordan and the Jordan Electricity Authority. Products were also sold directly to the public in the local market and at the various industrial exhibitions held occasionally during certain seasons in the Kingdom.

Ramadan Thoughts

Journey's end

WITH THE end of Ramadan one comes to the end of a spiritual journey. The value of this journey will last for a long time. It will guide us for another year until we are again visited by this great month. What have we learned during the past four weeks?

Apart from congratulating ourselves for enduring the physical hardships of the month of fasting, we should be more than jubilant for finding, each in his or her own way, the path of God. It is this pleasure which will last for a long time to come. Now that we are expecting the Eid, we are getting ready to bid farewell to a strict routine and replace it with a more liberal one. But that does not mean that we can liberate ourselves from the moral meanings of Ramadan. They should stay with us always because by following them we can stay on the right path, we can regulate our dealings with fellow human beings and with the one God.

The great value which we can reap from fasting is feeling on Eid's day that we are cleansed from our sins, that we have come closer to understanding the meaning of our lives. Would we like to remain clean? Would we like to always have a clear vision of life and of the meanings it entails? Ramadan is just a reminder of some of the basics in life, but its message should endure long after the month has passed us.

I have that romantic feeling when Ramadan is about to finish. It is as if I am bidding farewell an old friend who is always there to guide me and remind me. But my sadness is overcome by the fact that I am to enjoy life's pleasures again and share my happiness with the other Muslims around the globe. This is the meaning of Eid. The second reason for my joy is the knowledge that while this Ramadan has ended, there will always be another one; full of blessings and reminders, of hope and salvation. Its timing is always perfect; it is there when we are ready for it.

For those who fasted and prayed during the past four weeks, may God accept their deeds and fulfill their wishes. I join them in celebrating Eid al Fitr and hope its blessings will overwhelm us all.

Ibrahim Zein

The factory's production capacity is 400 pieces every 8-hour shift.

The project's future plans include introducing new production lines, farming out production to women working at home in a bid to increase the number of beneficiaries, exploring export possibilities and establishing a co-operative or a shareholding company of the workers to run the project.

The United Nations Population Fund finances all productive schemes initiated by the Women and Development Program which include, in addition to the Raiyah project: bee-keeping and honey production in Karak governorate; planting medicinal herbs in Irbid governorate; rabbit production in Balqa governorate; light foot-wear production in Zarqa governorate; dolls in traditional costumes in

Amman; informational and educational materials; and business counselling for women entrepreneurs in small enterprises.

During her visit to the factory, the Queen was briefed on the project and its production plans by Mrs Salwa Masri, Director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women and Development Program. Her Majesty also inspected various production units.

Queen Noor was accompanied on her visit by the Minister of Social Development, Mr Abdul Majeed Shreideh, and the Director General of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mrs In'am Mufit.

Also present during visit were the governor of Mafrag, the Mayor of Mafrag, parliament members representing Mafrag Governorate, the Director of Social Development in Mafrag Governorate, representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the General Federation of Jordanian Women, and the director and staff members of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women and Development Program.

Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements. Drop us a line and send a photo... we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

19 APRIL 1990

Adnan Khashoggi: The incredible shrinking billionaire

By Glenn Plaskin
Special to The Star

JUST TWO years ago, "Baba," as he is nicknamed by his six children, was circling the globe in the dead of night, smuggled under a \$200,000 Russian sable bedspread, dreaming like a baby. All was well in Adnan Khashoggi's world.

His 12 homes - including the 180,000-acre ranch in Kenya, the 5,000-acre compound in Marbella, and apartments in Paris, Cannes, the Canary Islands, Madrid, Rome, Beirut, Riyadh, Jidda, New York and Monte Carlo - were all fully manned.

The stable of Arabian horses and 200 exotic animals were shampooed, the 100 some-odd Mercedes limousines were gassed up. Liz Taylor showed up at the million-dollar costume balls and magic shows, and the \$75 million yacht hadn't yet been sold to Donald Trump for a bargain-basement \$29 million.

"Baba" also toted in his pockets \$1 million as walking-around money, and supplied his Italian wife, Lamia, with \$2 million necklaces.

So what. Every year, for nearly 20 years, the ambitious businessman had pulled in whopping annual commissions of \$100 million, acting as middleman for Lockheed, Northrop, Raytheon, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing.

"But," he shrugs, "I was a lousy manager of my investments - and now I've shrunken," down to his last \$54 million, four homes, and one small jet from an estimated \$2 billion jackpot of just five years ago.

The Incredible Shrinking Billionaire was dismayed when his \$1 billion real estate venture in Salt Lake City went bust, depressed when his Triad America company went bankrupt, and angered when plans for a \$600 million tourist resort in Egypt collapsed, "because the Parliament," he snaps, "was afraid of upsetting the pharaohs buried inside the pyramids."

Yet he was on the upswing, just beginning to move into growing consumer markets in the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries, when he was canned off to the clinker last summer by the Swiss police.

"I am," he shouts, "innocent," of allegedly backdating deeds concealing the Marcoses' ownership of four New York buildings purchased with \$165 million de-legally selling \$200 million of paintings purloined by shoe-craze Inelda from a museum in Manila.

All this for friends in trouble? "You don't," he reckons, "go into somebody to help a friend." Nor do you sit in a 6-by-8-foot prison cell with a 30-inch-wide bed in Bern, cleaning your own toilet and munching on food from the nearby Schwyz Hotel, this before being extradited to the United States on July 19, 1989.

Now, the US attorney counsels, did New York City's Crown

Building, the Herald Center, 40 Wall St. and 200 Madison Ave. fall into Khashoggi's hands?

"I bought them legitimately from foreign corporations, didn't take any Marcos assets and sell them against the law."

But "Baba" thinks little about the possibility of a guilty verdict, one that could land him behind bars for 10 years.

Not possible. In fact, he confides he has a brand-new \$65 million yacht on the drawing board. He also talks to God:

Scot-free on \$10 million bail and seen at parties almost every night, this Khashoggi is a calm one, poking fun at an electronic monitoring cuff wrapped around the ankle. "It doesn't itch and it isn't radar... it's nothing," he scoffs.

On this day, Mr K., signature mustache buffed and perennial tan gleaming, is perched in his \$26 million Olympic Tower duplex - a 30,000-square-foot affair overlooking the twin spires of St

So philosophical. Weren't you petrified, shocked when the police came to get you?

We all get shocked as human beings. I was shocked, but there is a realism in my character that helps me. When five policemen walked into my hotel apartment in Bern to arrest me, I couldn't be hostile or angry. So I invited them to tea and breakfast, immediately creating a confidence. I was not on the defence.

What were you thinking in jail?

What am I supposed to do? I asked myself. Should I pull all the plugs to get out of this box or take advantage of the situation - test my belief in God?

I'm proud that I enjoyed my three months in prison. Enjoyed it, because the test was that I could face reality and allow my belief in God to come out.

Any fear of violence in jail, that you might get hurt?

No. This is because of my confidence that I can make friends



Adnan and Lamia Khashoggi - autumn 1989

Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan.

"All the prayers of the people come up to me," he smiles, settling back to discuss, for the first time, his crumbled empire and his views on death, reincarnation, religion, money and the American justice system.

Q: You idolised your father, who was a devout Muslim and served honourably as personal physician to the late King Ibn Saud. What advice would he have given you when you sat last summer in a Swiss jail?

A: "My son, be patient; there's always tomorrow; the clouds will clear and the rain will disappear."

anywhere, even in a jail cell. How were the accommodations?

The Swiss jails were excellent, clean and organised with a radio in each room so I could talk to the guard. I didn't feel lost in a pit. But here in America (at Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center), we were all animals trapped in a dirty cage, unable to communicate with guards except by screaming.

Isn't it humiliating to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet around your ankle?

(Pulling up his sock, showing off the device) I'm a guinea pig, a specimen, so democracy can examine itself through me.



Adnan Khashoggi in his Olympic Tower duplex last March

But it didn't happen in a vacuum: Four Manhattan buildings allegedly owned by the Marcoses are now owned by you - the alleged frontman. How so?

There are two foreigners involved - I and Mrs Tantako, supposedly a close friend of Mrs Marcos. My transaction for the buildings was with Tantako - not with Mrs Marcos. Maybe we can assume Tantako is her front, but that's not a legal point.

What about 30 paintings that Inelda Marcos had allegedly purloined from the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, art supposedly sold to you as part of a cover-up?

If I give you some paintings to store or keep, so what? The joke is that these paintings are supposedly worth \$200 million, but most of them were phonics and were actually worth \$6 million Swiss francs.

Theoretically, would you do anything to help a friend?

Within the limits of the law. I'm not going to try to lie to put a poor woman in jail.

The poor woman. Both Marcoses have had terrible reputations and stand accused of looting \$3.5 billion, defrauding their own country.

Ask questions about your own presidents. Mr Nixon was caught, Mr Johnson was a big naughty, but he wasn't caught - so Marcos was caught, maybe. But look at the rest who are still in power. Are they pure?

Even before the trial, your reputation as an arms dealer had created great antipathy in the US, so?

I am a merchant banker... who has made a tremendous amount of money by expediting the sale of weapons.

Money for the shareholders of Lockheed and Northrop. Are you accusing American shareholders of being dirty people because planes are manufactured.

That is my answer. I made jobs available for you; Lockheed was nearly bankrupt when I came into the picture. I saved them. I'm in the soup with you guys.

Your partner, Lamia, has been your wife for 12 years, yet you have quite a playboy's reputation. Is it deserved?

I am happily married. I also enjoy having Brooke Shields, Farrah Fawcett and Elizabeth Taylor at my parties.

And Miss India of 1982, Pa-

mella Singh Bordes, who claims she was used by you as a sexual bribe?

I have been falsely accused... she couldn't even produce half a picture with me. I don't know the poor girl... no. And I never used women as sexual bribes. People thought I had an affair with Brooke Shields because I danced with her.

What does all the money mean?

Money allows you to mix in the club of decision-makers.

The villas are business tools, and with them I have made a lot of money. God sent us on this earth to struggle and survive and he didn't leave us with the tools of life, he expected us to be materialistic. I look at people as boxes... human boxes... and the soul is inside it. When we die these boxes run away and the soul is linked with the creator. If I can have a good message in the morning and take care of my health, fine. I am modest within myself. I have no ego problems.

Unlike Donald Trump, who says: "Adnan was a great broker and a lousy businessman... he understood the art of putting people together, but he never knew how to invest his money." True?

I think he read me well. I'm not a lousy businessman, I'm a lousy manager, because I was never capable of managing my business from an office. I didn't have a firm grasp on my assets.

How much money do you have left?

Enough to live a comfortable life; I hope that by the end of this year I will have a cash flow back to the \$100 million range per year, but I don't get depressed. Even if I get bad news, a deal falls apart, I go out to dinner.

Still, you must feel frustrated: There was a time your name was instant credit, unlimited collateral. Can you live with embarrassment?

I can live with embarrassment because it's real. I can't walk into a bank and say, "Lend me \$50 million," though I used to be able to. Even if I had collateral in solid gold bars, they would say: "Khashoggi, get out of this place." My reputation is damaged.

Can you regain your reputation?

In five minutes! Five minutes after this is over. It might be better, because here is a man who went through the process in a civilised manner. He was patient, tolerant, and he didn't betray his friends for the sake of arguing his way out.

And in 100 years, where will you be?

I don't believe in reincarnation. I believe when you die, the box is gone. Death is like unplugging the energy force.

And by summertime, if you are found guilty, will you go to jail?

I'm in a funny way a very obedient person... if the law finds me guilty, I pay the price.

Anything else you want us to know?

Just, I love you guys. Love me more.

THE STAR 17

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has two vacancies with the following characteristics:

1. At the Residence: Caretaker and cleaner
2. At the Chancery: Gardener and cleaner

- Salary: Assigned by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Conditions of work: as by the Jordanian Legislation.
- Requirements: a) Knowledge of English and Arabic.
- b) Merit: knowledge of Spanish.
- Proof of knowledge in languages: a personal interview and a written test.

Petitions should be addressed to the Spanish Embassy, P.O. Box: 454, in writing, within two weeks from this date.

For further information please call telephone number 655889.

OUR RATES ARE THE LOWEST IN JORDAN

SUBAH FOR GARMENTS

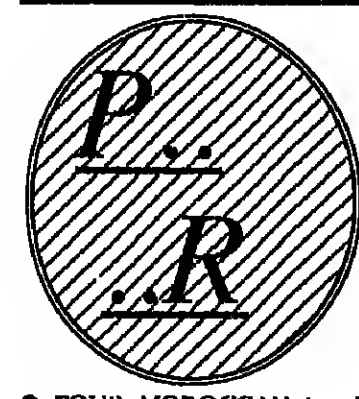
Bayader Wadi Seer, Main Street
opposite the mosque
Tel: 823485

LACOSTE, Benetton, BOSS NIKE, GUCCI, YSL, CHANNEL, polo, addidas.

A wide variety of sports wear for all members of the family, in addition to jeans trousers and sports shoes.

● A delegation of the Swedish-Jordanian Society, which has a large membership in Stockholm and the rest of Sweden, is currently visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian-Scandinavian Friendship Association (JSFA) in Amman.

The Swedish group of 26 persons headed by Mr. Christer Kallen, Consul of Jordan in Sweden and president of the society, was received Tuesday by Mr. Zuhair Asfour, president of the JSFA, at the Royal Automobile Club. Also present were the honorary presidents of the JSFA, Their Highnesses Prince Ra'ad Bin Zaid, Princess Majda and the Swedish Ambassador and his wife. During their stay, members of the delegation will visit Jordanian families in their homes in Amman. Field trips to many places in central Jordan, among them the "Scandinavian Forest" north of Amman, will be conducted, to be followed by a stay in Aqaba for several days.



● FOUR MOROCCAN hotels will be added to the portfolio of Inter-Continental Hotels in the early 1990s as the company continues its global expansion. The luxury hotel group announced it would manage five-star properties in Marrakesh, Agadir, Fez and Casablanca in co-operation with LIWA International d'Investissements Touristiques, a part of the Al Oiciba Group of companies.

Hotels in Marrakesh, Agadir and Fez will undergo extensive renovations to conform with Inter-Continental's stringent international quality standards and will be ready for operation in late 1991 to 1992. The Casablanca property will be built to Inter-Continental's specifications and is expected to open in August 1992.

In Casablanca, Inter-Continental will construct its 350 to 400-room property in United Nations Place, the city's main square. Located across from the financial and commercial district of Casablanca, the hotel will be adjacent to the Old Medina walled city and tourist attractions.

In Agadir, Morocco's foremost tourist/vacation destination, Inter-Continental will convert a four-star, 156-room hotel with 40 bungalows. The renovation plan will add a casino and upgrade facilities that include six tennis courts, a disco and food and beverage outlets. The property, formerly the Hotel Atlas, will offer 156 twin double rooms, 38 king room bungalows and two Royal Suite bungalows with views of the beach and the Bay of Agadir. The restored hotel is expected to be ready for operation in November 1991.

Inter-Continental also will upgrade two existing properties, creating luxury accommodations in Marrakesh and Fez. Constructed in 1969, the Marrakesh

hotel was taken over by the Moroccan Government and operated until September 1989 as the Palais El Badia. The low-rise, "U" shaped building has 300 rooms, a swimming pool, two tennis courts and extensive landscaped gardens. The hotel is just minutes away from the 5,000 seat international Congress Palace. Renovation plans include demolition of the hotel's central core and reconstruction. Inter-Continental expects to have the hotel ready for operation by September 1991.

In Fez, the oldest Imperial City and spiritual and cultural center of the country, Inter-Continental will demolish and rebuild the central core of a low-rise, "L" shaped building. The property, formerly the Hotel de Fez, had been managed by the Moroccan Government since 1973.

The addition of the four hotels in Morocco will bring the number of Inter-Continental properties on the African continent to 15. Inter-Continental also has three hotels in Kenya, two in Côte d'Ivoire, two in Gabon and Zambia and one each in Egypt and Zaire.

● HONG KONG - Cathay Pacific achieved record results in 1989 when it carried 7.1 million passengers and added six aircraft to take its total fleet to 36, the airline's Chairman Mr. D.A. Gledhill announced.

The airline has set a course for further expansion and placed firm orders for additional aircraft with options for more.

Cathay Pacific expects total dividend for 1989 to amount to 42.0 Hong Kong Dollar Cents per share against 36.0 Cents per

share paid out in 1988, Mr. Gledhill said in releasing the airline's 1989 audited consolidated results.

In January 1990 Cathay Pacific acquired a significant shareholding in Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Limited 'Dragonair', and entered into an agreement to manage the airline. A number of senior personnel including the chief operating officer have been seconded to Dragonair from Cathay Pacific.

Cathay Pacific predicts that 1990 will be another year of growth and expansion with passenger and cargo traffic expected to grow. During the year the company plans to increase capacity by almost 20 per cent to meet forecast demand.

Mr. Gledhill said to meet the airline's growing demand for air travel, six additional aircraft were brought into service during 1989. These included the first two of the company's commitment for fifteen ultra long range Boeing 747-400 aircraft which have been deployed primarily on European routes.

Agenda

Films

● The American Center presents the feature film "Hans Christian Andersen", starring Danny Kaye, Thursday 19 April at 3:00 pm. Repeated on Sunday 22 April at 3:00 pm.

● The French Cultural Centre presents the feature film "Les Perles de la Couronne" starring Raimu and Arletty, Monday 23 April at 8:30 pm.

Lectures

● Dr. Raiber Stadelmann will lecture on "German Excavations in Thebes (New Empire)" at the Goethe Institute, Saturday 21 April at 8:00 pm.

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US Sports Round Up

SPORTS FROM THE PRESSBOX

By Lee Lerner

Atlanta left fielder Lonnie Smith won the National League's Comeback Player of the Year award last season. The Braves hope right fielder Dale Murphy will make a bid for that same honor this season.

Murphy, who drove in 100 runs and hit 30-plus homers for four consecutive seasons from 1982 to 1985, has collapsed offensively the past two seasons. But the lowly Braves will need some big numbers from Murphy to avoid the cellar again this year.

Murphy hit .228 last year with 84 RBIs and 20 home runs. In 1988, he batted .226 with 24 homers and 77 RBIs.

That's not bad for many players, but for Murphy it was dismal. Especially after a look at the monster year he put up in 1987, when he hit .295, bashing 44 homers and driving home 105 runs.

So what's happened? Some say Atlanta's losing ways have finally got to him. Others whisper that at 34 he's on the downhill slide.

Actually both may be true. But this season there's a spark of hope in Atlanta. No, not for the division flag (that's real), but simply for a contending team, and for Murphy to shake out of his two-year slumber.

Much of those hopes have already been placed squarely on the

shoulders of first baseman Nick Esasky, whom the Braves signed as a free agent in the off season. Esasky, who hit .277 with 30 homers and 108 RBIs for Boston last season, has proved he has some pop. Now Murphy and Co. are hoping Esasky can provide the jump start they so desperately need.

SPORTSLINE

By Dale Dunlap

It is inevitable that if you are from Puerto Rico, wear the number 21 and play baseball very well that you will be compared to the late Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Roberto Clemente, who died in a plane crash off the coast of the island nation on Dec. 31, 1972.

But Texas Rangers outfielder Ruben Sierra is intent on making his own mark in the major leagues. Judging by what the 24-year-old right fielder already has accomplished in 3 1/2 seasons, he's off to a great start.

Sierra "quietly" finished second to Milwaukee's Robin Yount in the AL Most Valuable Player voting, after hitting .306 with 29 home runs and 119 RBIs in 1989. He already has amassed — going into this season — 98 homers and 374 RBIs in his budding career.

But it's Bo Jackson and Jose Canseco that get the headlines. In Puerto Rico, Sierra is an icon compared to Clemente. Besides wearing the same number, both are right fielders, both came from the



same area of Puerto Rico and they look somewhat alike. The biggest difference is that Sierra has not honed his defensive skills, committing nine errors last season. Sierra can be excused, though, because he has more power than Clemente and he already is aiming to hit between .330 and .360 this season.

The Rangers hope they can "build" a team around him that can contend for the AL West Division title. Sierra is the strength of a lineup that includes second baseman Julio Franco, outfielder Pete Incaviglia and designated hitter Harold Baines. The pitching staff, even with Nolan Ryan, appears lacking enough to challenge.

However, if Sierra ends up with a "monster" season which he promises to have soon, the Rangers could be in the thick of it. An Puerto Ricans will be comparing Roberto Clemente to him instead.

OFF THE WALL

1990 Tribune Media Services

BE THANKFUL WE NEVER GET EVERYTHING WE DESERVE

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Field of Dreams, Kevin Costner, MCA Home Video, (PG-1989)
2. Lettini Weapons 2, Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Warner Home Video, (R-1989)
3. Parenthood, Steve Martin, Dianne Wiest, MCA Home Video (PG-13-1989)
4. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Paramount Home Video, (PG-13-1989)
5. Turner & Hooch, Tom Hanks, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1989)
6. Uncle Buck, John Candy, MCA Home Video (PG-1989)
7. Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, Rick Moranis, Walt Disney Home Video, (PG-1989)
8. The Package, Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Orion Home Video, (R-1989)
9. When Harry Met Sally..., Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan, Nelson Home Entertainment (R-1989)
10. Young Einstein, Yahoo Serious, Warner Home Video, (PG-1989)

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. Nick of Time, Bonnie Raitt, Capitol
2. Soul Provider, Michael Bolton, Columbia
3. Alannah Myles, Alannah Myles, Atlantic
4. Forever Your Girl, Paula Abdul, Virgin
5. Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814, Janet Jackson, A&M
6. ... But Seriously, Phil Collins, Atlantic
7. Cry Like a Rainstorm, Howl Like the Wind, Linda Ronstadt, Elektra
8. Pump, Aerosmith, Geffen
9. Pump Up the Jam — The Album, TechnoTronic, SBK
10. Cosmic Thing, The B-52's, Reprise

TOP POP SINGLES

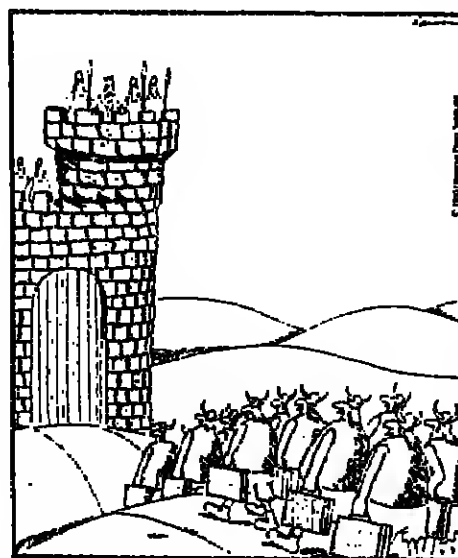
1. Love Will Lead You Back, Taylor Dayne, Arista
2. All Around the World, Lisa Stansfield, Arista
3. I'll Be Your Everything, Tommy Page, Warner Bros.
4. Black Velvet, Alannah Myles, Atlantic
5. Don't Wanna Fall in Love, Jane Child, Warner Bros.
6. I Wish It Would Rain Down, Phil Collins, Atlantic
7. All I Wanna Do Is Make Love to You, Heart, Capitol
8. Get Up!, TechnoTronic, SBK
9. Forever, Kiss, Mercury
10. Nothing Compares to U 2, Sinéad O'Connor, Ensign

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

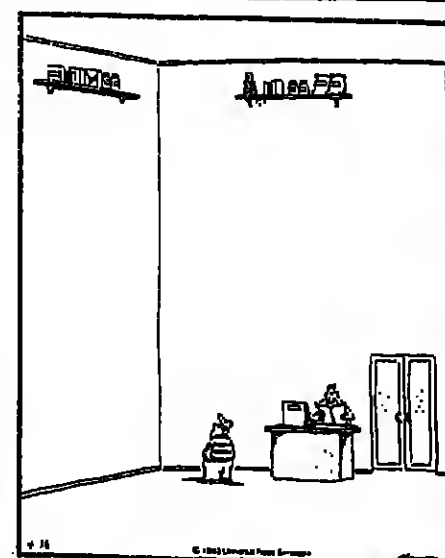
1. RSV III, Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia
2. No Holdin' Back, Randy Travis, Warner Bros.
3. Killin' Time, Clint Black, RCA
4. Lone Wolf, Hank Williams Jr., Warner Bros.
5. Fast Movin' Train, Restless Heart, RCA
6. Pleidin' On Nashville, The Kentucky Headhunters, Mercury
7. Highwayman 2, Willie, Waylon, Johnny & Kris, Columbia
8. Willow in the Wind, Kathy Mattea, Mercury
9. Leave the Lights On, Lorrie Morgan, RCA

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



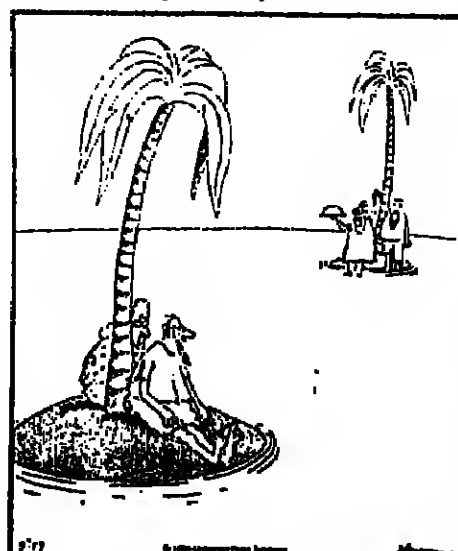
"Eggs! Vikings! And they mean business!"



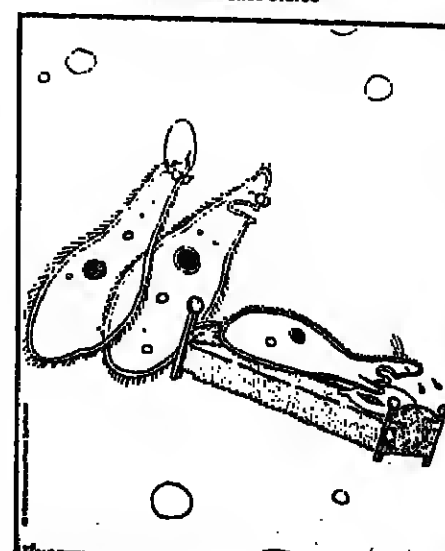
Inconvenience stores



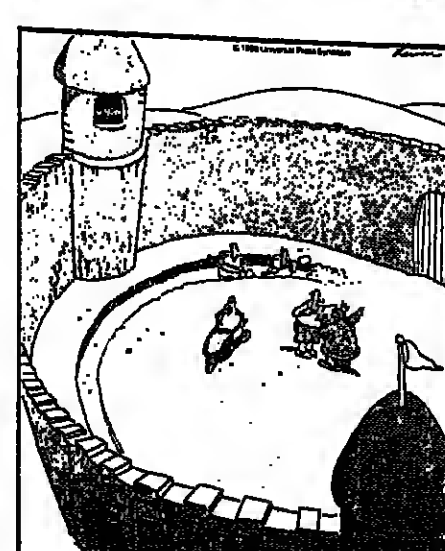
Semi-deeparades



"Uh-oh. Carol's inviting us over for coffee, and I'm sure it's just loaded with palm oil."



"Now Betty Blue, we know you're upset... breaking up with a boyfriend is always hard. But as they say, there are more problems in the lower intestine."



Suddenly, a heated exchange took place between the king and the most contractor.



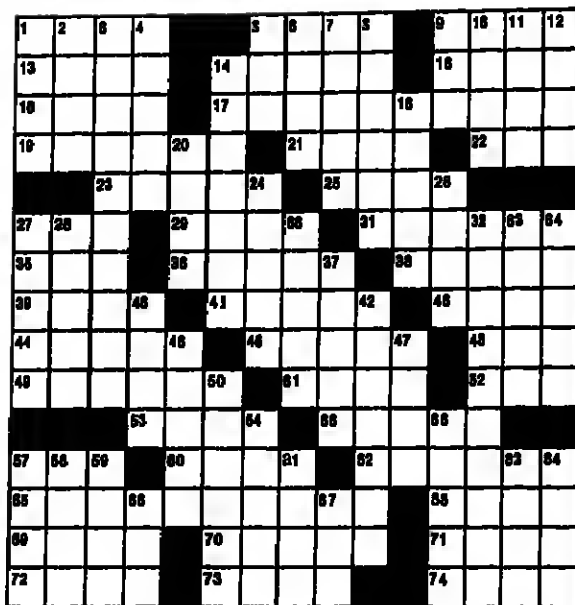
Sherry is caught between the worst experience hotel ever.

THE STAR 21

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

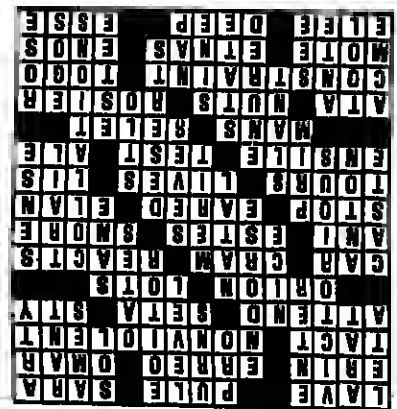
- 1 Waaah
- 5 Whine
- 9 Post Teasdale
- 13 Ireland
- 14 Misused
- 15 Actor Sheriff
- 16 Diplomacy
- 17 Peaceful
- 18 Be present
- 21 — trip for (try to catch)
- 22 Filthy abode
- 23 Constellation
- 25 Great deal
- 27 Conveyance
- 29 Study hard
- 31 Counters a stimulus
- 35 Black cuckoo
- 36 — Park, CO
- 38 Night noise
- 39 Traffic sign
- 41 Kind of seat
- 43 Fleir
- 44 Travela
- 45 Reeldea
- 46 Fleur-de—
- 49 Store on a farm
- 51 Examination
- 52 Beer cousin
- 53 Supplies with a crew
- 55 Sublease
- 57 One — time
- 60 Pease and platchio
- 62 More optimistic
- 65 Restriction
- 66 Take-out order words
- 69 Speck
- 70 Lab burners
- 71 Biblical petriech
- 72 Gen.
- 73 Robert —
- 74 Profound
- 75 Being



Solution

DOWN

- 1 — smile be your...
- 2 "I smell —"
- 3 Triumphant
- 4 Penetrate
- 5 Money player
- 6 Footed vase
- 7 Even
- 8 Publication
- 9 The sun
- 10 IA city
- 11 Speak
- 12 Irrationally
- 13 Chi-chi
- 14 Recommend
- 16 Joyce
- 20 Pleasant
- 24 Of birth
- 26 Logical
- 27 Social group
- 28 Compoer
- 30 Dvork
- 32 Value
- 33 Light meals
- 34 Hunter's
- 35 Feel
- 37 Cut
- 40 Proper
- 42 Leave in a lurch
- 45 TIL
- 47 Fr. town
- 50 Hardened: var.
- 54 Condition
- 56 Me Leuder
- 57 Pinnacle
- 58 Cafe-paw
- 59 Feed the kitty
- 61 — que non
- 63 Selva
- 64 Pink wine
- 68 Eapy
- 69 Daze



Jordan Bridge

By Ghassan Ghanem

A soldier and a gentleman

YEARS AGO Claire Kassab was sitting at the bridge hall of the prestigious Gezira Sporting Club of Cairo. She was enjoying tea and biscuits while watching the on going rubber bridge game awaiting her turn to play. She agreed to play after she found that all the players were playing the same system she does. "Your turn madame" the gentleman with dark skin and thin moustache told her politely. She joined the table facing the thin moustache and gave two cautious smiles to the very slim and very fat ladies sitting on her left and right.

"What system do you play madame" her partner asked? "I play the same system you all play monieur, Mozambique," she answered. But before she finished her statement, different reactions were expressed by each member of the group. Despite the sincere efforts to hide their reactions, they could not help it. It was too much for them to bear. What has bridge to do with Africa, precisely with Mozambique? Her partner was trying to hide his laughter by avoiding vibrating his thin moustache; the fat lady raised herself together with her perfectly drawn eyebrows and artificial eyelashes which made her look as slim as the other lady who was laughing loudly and shaking in all directions that she almost became as fat as her partner. Beside them, their two innocent husbands were looking, each at his own wife wishing that their temporary shapes will stay forever.

After the usual formalities of apologies which was a habit in that fine and high society, Claire started to explain that this system was invented by Dr George Sfeir of Amman who taught it to her and others.

The late Dr Sfeir was a dentist who started his career as an officer in the Jordan Armed Forces then retired to run his own clinic. He was a genuine personality and a real gentleman. Above all, a very enthusiastic and sportive bridge player. He admired the principle of cheapest bid and adopted it in a system that he used to play and encouraged others to play it years before similar modern systems became known. Major by five, strong Notromp and the partnership bid their suits in ascending order until they reach the proper contract according to the explored strength of the hand.

George was one of the Jordan Bridge Association founders. He was very active and kept on supporting the activities and enjoyed sharing them with a very high sportive spirit until he left us last year. In 1975 I met him at the Freres de la Salle club in Jatal El-Husseini during a weekly Monday night duplicate game. "Why do you name it Mozambique, George?" I asked? "What else" he answered confidently.

Take this hand that was held by him and defend against the 4♠ contract:

♠KJ ♠KQJ3 ♠9754 ♠1086. He led the ♠K which was overaken by his partner to continue the suit to the ♠Q then ♠Q which was ruffed by declarer who reached dummy to play one of the three small spades and finessed the ♠9. The hand came in the individual event during the friendly meeting between Jordan and Kuwait in 1979 in Kuwait and Ahmady.

George won the ♠9 with the ♠K without hesitation! The happy declarer reached dummy again and finessed the ♠10 confident about the ♠J location unaware of the trap. George won with the ♠J and declarer was not happy any more.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): A new approach to an old problem works wonders. Make certain your facts and figures are accurate. Long-line friendships help advance your business interests. Combine business with pleasure this week. A surprise telephone message will delight you. Travel is a real possibility. Although a family crisis could deplete your financial reserves, an unexpected check will arrive in the nick of time.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): An early-morning workout will energize you. Share this health-oriented activity with your romantic partner. Such legal advice if uncertain how to handle a business or financial problem. An office shakeup could send you on a job search. A change of personnel will improve your work environment. Browse through antique and secondhand shops - you could find some real treasure.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): An exciting, busy day lies ahead. A visitor brings great news from loved ones at a distance. Avoid saying anything that could cause embarrassment. Accept a loan from a dear friend. Be more daring and success will come easier. You can learn a lot by observing other people's mistakes. Your intuition is right on target where loved one is concerned. Be a good listener.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): A lucky week for your career. Check out the status of a partnership. An older person poses important questions. Find out the answers. A casual gathering holds special appeal this week. Jump at a challenge. Joining groups will help you make new friends and business contacts. A letter brings welcome financial news. Share the glad things with partner. A small celebration is in order.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug.): Although a new loan will relieve financial pressures, a change in spending habits is also recommended. Those with high-tech skills receive the best job offers now. Your social life becomes more rewarding. Show more faith in yourself. An unusual agreement will help you make certain concessions. Family members rally around. A new business partnership enjoys highly favourable influences. Romance is magical.

VIRGO (23 Aug. - 22 Sept.): Others are eager to push their responsibilities onto your shoulders. Stand your ground. Keep an eye on spending; buy groceries in quantity. A change of lifestyle adds zest. Spend more time with those in your field. You will benefit from swapping information and experiences. Be certain you receive all the money you are entitled to from a business deal.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): You get a unique opportunity to display your special talents. Make the most of it! An exciting financial trend begins. Spend more time with your mate and family. Group decisions are favoured. Steer clear of a co-worker who likes to gossip. Romantic partner respects your high standards. Luck is on your side when you fight for what is right. New financial rewards are featured.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): Daytime business trips can be more productive than overnight ones. A lawyer offers valuable advice; follow it! A brother or sister is your strongest ally in a financial struggle. Romantic blossoms. A new venture begins to pay off handsomely. Making a clean break with the past puts you on the road to romantic happiness. A rejection could work in your favour. Proceed slowly!

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): A small child sheds light on an important issue. Listen closely. A temporary job or loans is the answer to a cash shortage. Use this to assess your partner's emotional state. Making intelligent concessions will help you turn a difficult situation around. A relative aids your career. Show your gratitude. You will be richly rewarded for granting a favour.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): A clothing "bargain" may not be all it seems. Check for flaws. Tax matters merit your prompt attention. Contact a lawyer or accountant for advice. Loved one makes a special request. Trust your intuition. An intense relationship could be somewhat tricky this week: go slow. Admit a mistake and then forget it. Dwelling on old errors wastes valuable time and energy.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.): A small loan helps you meet your obligations. New partnerships will prove profitable following a period of adjustment. Hang in there! Do not blow minor differences of opinion out of proportion. Refuse to be bulldozed into making a hasty decision. Stand up for your rights. A period of meditation provides you with answers. Follow an older person's advice.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 20 March): A friend could do you a huge favour. Solve to repay it as soon as possible. A change of residence may be necessary. Look around carefully and you will find even better quarters. You obtain more power and money now. Your priorities begin to change. Consider the alternative to a current business arrangement. Loved one is pleased by your dedication and affection.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are direct and faithful but easily bored. Wise parents will make a special effort to keep these youngsters entertained and focused on the task at hand. Encourage these children to speak; instead of blurted out whatever comes to mind, they can be slow to pay their bills, they will eventually seek loving and adventuresome, they like to take chances. Given a choice, they will choose their own path. Their parents will find them very popular.

COMICS

calvin and hobbes

by WILSON

